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VOP ACCUSES IRAQ OF SLAYINGS IN PAKISTAN

JN051628Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 5 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Three Palestinian citizens were martyred this morning when a gang of killers belonging to the hireling Iraqi intelligence stormed the PLO office in Pakistan. The attackers stormed the office after killing a policeman. Then they assassinated brother Sa'id Abu Nasir; brother Umar Khanjal Ahmad, a Palestinian student studying in Pakistan; and Lieutenant Muhammad [not further identified], who happened to be in the office during the attack. Lieutenant Muhammad was studying military science there.

PLO Executive Committee Meets

JN051633Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 5 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Brother commander Abu 'Ammar at noon today presided over a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee and the revolution is Higher Military Council. During the meeting, the conferees studied various aspects of the current situation. The meeting also centered on the Iraqi regime's crimes against Palestinian revolution representatives and cadres abroad following attacks on various PLO offices.

Issues Statement

JN051902Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1650 GMT 5 Aug 78 JN

[Text] During the past few days, successive brutal attacks have taken place against a number of PLO offices abroad. PLO representatives and leaders have been assassinated by hireling gangs connected with the Iraqi authorities and their repressive organs. These brutal attacks have led to the martyrdom of a number of leaders and strugglers of the Palestinian revolution, beginning with Sa'id Hammami, 'Ali Nasir, 'Izz ad-Din al-Qalaq and 'Adnan Hammad, and including the Larnaca operation and ending with the martyrdom of four [as heard] strugglers in our office in Islamabad at the hands of these criminal gangs motivated by the Baghdad regime to strike out against the Palestinian people and the Palestinian revolution.

In light of this, the PLO would like to stress the following:

1. The tendency of the Iraqi regime to behave like a terrorist gang is aimed at making the PLO react in the same way. The Iraqi regime is acting with a brutal and unethical mentality which is completely remote from the diplomatic norms according to which the ruling regime in Baghdad is supposed to abide.

In stressing our rejection and condemnation of these terrorist methods and these suspicious and brutal acts, the PLO will deal with the recent developments in its capacity as a representative of a people and a cause--a cause which is in the forefront of the national struggle and of national liberation on an international level. The PLO has also decided not to retaliate for the provocative acts.

2. These acts are aimed solely at harming the PLO's position and reputation and its worldwide representation. The executive committee, is condemning and denouncing these acts, urges all fraternal countries and all national, progressive and honorable countries and forces to declare their condemnation and denunciation of such serious acts, particularly since they are being carried out by a regime claiming to adhere to the Palestinian cause and the liberation struggle.

3. These conspiratorial forces have tried to carry out attempts aimed at striking against the Palestinian revolution and at creating fratricidal fighting. However, the national and struggling vigilance existing among all factions has aborted this serious plan. The PLO Executive Committee stresses that it will not allow the unity of the revolution and its various struggling forces to be harmed and that it will continue its work for the sake of consolidating the cohesion and unity of all the Palestinian revolution forces in accordance with the basis defined by the PLO bodies and with the resolutions of its national councils.

4. The Executive Committee is fully prepared to remedy matters with a spirit of the pan-Arab and national responsibility which dictates our commitments in the Palestinian, Arab and international arenas. At the same time, the Executive Committee shoulders its full responsibilities [words indistinct] in an unethical war being launched against it by the regime in Baghdad, a regime which is utilizing its huge resources against the Palestinian people, their revolution, and their sacred and just cause.

The PLO Executive Committee urges all the masses of our Arab nation, its leaders, and all the progressive, national and honorable forces in the world to support the Palestinian people against this new, ugly and brutal war being launched by the Iraqi regime against our people, our fighters and our strugglers. The Executive Committee urges everyone to shoulder his responsibility regarding this serious aggression against us as a people and as a revolution.

'ARAFAT SCORES IRAQ ON ASSASSINATION IN PARIS

TA041847Y Paris AFP in English 1735 GMT 4 Aug 78 TA

[Text] Paris, Aug 4 (AFP)--Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasir 'Arafat has attacked Iraqi secret service involvement in the murder of the PLO's Paris bureau chief, 'Izz ad-Din al-Qalaq, and his assistant, 'Adnan Hammad, yesterday, Palestinian sources said here today.

The sources said Mr 'Arafat had sent a telegram to the Paris bureau urging all PLO representatives to inform governments "of the role of the Iraqi secret services in the murder of 'Izz ad-Din al-Qalaq." The telegram added that the Iraqi services "are plotting against the Palestinians "revolutionary cause", the sources said.

Mr al-Qalaq's body is to be flown to Damascus tomorrow for burial. The body of his assistant, 'Adnan Hammad, is to be taken to Beirut for burial. A meeting in their memory is to be held outside the mosque in Paris tomorrow.

PALESTINIAN-LEBANESE COMMAND HOLDS MEETING

JN041914Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 4 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, last evening presided over a meeting of the joint Palestinian-Lebanese command. The meeting discussed the situation in northern Lebanon and the measures to be taken which were agreed upon at yesterday's [as heard] meeting. The meeting also discussed the assassination of the martyr heroes 'Izz ad-Din al-Qalaq and 'Adnan Hammad by Iraqi intelligence. The joint command also discussed the Israeli raid on southern Lebanon and the necessary measures regarding it.

Further Report

JN041916Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1700 GMT 4 Aug 78 JN

[Text] The joint command of the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement in southern Lebanon held an emergency meeting yesterday, Thursday, to discuss the new barbaric Israeli aggression against residential areas in the An-Nabatiyah area in southern Lebanon which left destruction in its wake. Appropriate preventive measures were adopted to counter any expected Israeli aggression.

The joint command considers this aggression as a support for the aggressions of the isolationist gangs, in cooperation with Israel and under the leadership of the two traitor officers Sa'd Haddad and Shidyaq, to prevent the Lebanese Army from exercising its duties. This agression is also aimed at keeping Zionist presence on the border under isolationist cover.

The joint command expressed surprise at the official lukewarm position toward this aggression and toward the traitor officers. The joint command also expressed its strong denunciation of the criminal attack which led to the martyrdom of 'Izz ad-Din al-Qalaq, director of the PLO office in Paris. The joint command believes that the policy of assassinating the best strugglers of the Palestinian revolution is aimed against the Palestinian revolution and in particular against the Palestinian people's cause. The assassination policy serves only the Palestinian people's enemies and the enemies of the Arab liberation movement; that is to say, it serves the capitulatory course and the U.S. interests in the entire Arab area.

FATAH DELEGATION HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN MOSCOW

JN042006Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 4 Aug 78 JN

[Excerpts] The Fatah Central Committee delegation currently visiting the Soviet Union held a press conference at 1600 yesterday at the premises of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee.

Brother Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member and member of the delegation, spoke about the visit and answered questions put by representatives of the Soviet information media. The conference was attended by brother Abu Mazin, deputy secretary of the Fatah Central Committee and head of the delegation, and brother Abu Salih and Abu Sa'id.

At the outset of the conference, brother Abu Iyad and the delegation members welcomed the Soviet information men, who have always supported the Palestinian people at times of ordeal and difficulty. Brother Abu Iyad said Fatah will always remember the great role being played by the Soviet information media in this regard.

In reply to a question on the objective of the visit, brother Abu Iyad said: The objective of our visit to your sincere and friendly country is to hold consultations on the main problems concerning Middle East affairs in general and the Palestinian issue in particular, especially under these current circumstances in which we sense the degree of danger resulting from the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary onslaught on our revolution and Arab nation.

About the delegation's meetings in the Soviet Union, brother Abu Iyad said: Our meeting with the Soviet comrades were fruitful. Our first meeting was held with the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee. This was followed by meetings with the Central Committee of your hero party.

We met with high-ranking officials, including Comrade Ponomarev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Politburo candidate member. Our views on both the study of the current situation in the Arab area and on the political analysis and assessment were congruent and identical. This shows the depth of our friendship and the just objective for which the Palestinian revolution is struggling, brother Abu Iyad added.

At the end of the conference, brother Abu Iyad expressed thanks to the CPSU and the Soviet Government and people. He also conveyed the warm greetings of the Palestinian revolution to Comrade Brezhnev, the sincere friend to the Arab and Palestinian peoples.

FATAH'S ABU DAWUD CALLS FOR DIALOG AMONG FACTIONS

JN052126Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Berlin, 5 August--Abu Dawud, member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, has called for halting fratricide among the Palestinian sides and for resorting to democratic dialog instead of a dirty war. He said this course would enable the Palestinian revolution to get out of its current ordeal.

In an exclusive interview with the INA Berlin correspondent, Abu Dawud called for reconsidering and assessing the previous stage of the Palestinian revolution in a scientific and clear manner. He also called on the Palestinian revolution to draw up a sound course against As-Sadat's visit and its liquidationist consequences. He said it is incumbent on the Palestinian revolution to draw up an organizational and struggling course that would make participation in making an independent Palestinian decision against the wave of capitulation a basis for the organized relations in the Palestinian arena. There should also be such participation in creating a progressive and national front to joint the Palestinian revolution with the Lebanese Nationalist Movement on new bases that would protect the regolution and build its secure base in Lebanon.

Abu Dawud called on the honorable Arab and Palestinian people to stand up against the continuing scheme aimed at liquidating the Palestinian revolution, to put an end to the fratricidal fighting, to turn to the democratic course and [words indistinct]. Abu Dawud asserted that the only beneficiary of the fratricide in Lebanon is Zionism. He added that the Fatah Revolutionary Council strongly opposes the reactionary currents and schemes inside the Palestinian revolution. He strongly recommended democratic dialog and said it is the only course acceptable in the Palestinian arena.

He added: We in Fatah read a report prepared by Yig'al Allon in 1974, viewing the prospects of sectarian war in Lebanon, and then a Syrian-Palestinian war, and finally a Palestinian-Palestinian war. Abu Dawud added: I believe that the Zionists are benefiting from the Palestinian-Palestinian fratricide and that they are implementing this fratricide indirectly.

He added that U.S. imperialism and particularly Kissinger, who failed to Vietnamize the war in southeast Asia, have succeeded in the Arabization of the conflict and have commissioned the Arab reactionaries to secretly supervise and administer the conflict in this area, particularly in the Palestinian arena.

BAHRAIN

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES MIDDLE EAST ISSUES

JN051340Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1020 GMT 5 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Manama, 5 August--Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifa announced that the chances of an Arab-Israeli war have increased since the Initiative of President as-Sadat has faltered. Israeli intransigence toward the Egyptian president's initiative has led to a hardening of the Arab stand, he said.

In a statement to be published in the GULF DAILY NEWS tomorrow, the Bahraini minister said that the possibility of struggle in the region is great, since there are many indications that the various parties may resort to a military solution. He added that if the Arab and Israeli sides begin to think in terms of war, such a war will have more catastrophic results for the whole world than the 1973 war.

Regarding the security of the gulf, the minister pointed out that the talks have not developed as fast as described and said: We believe that these talks will take a long time because the problem is sensitive. He added: We are still interested in the talks even though nothing substantial has been achieved so far. But security does not mean military coordination, and we do not want to establish large (?bases) as is the case in the Mediterranean.

Regarding the Soviet presence in South Yemen, the Horn of Africa and Afghanistan, the Bahraini foreign minister said: The Soviets are doing their best to enter this region. The more struggles the Middle East witnesses, the easier their penetration. He then stressed that the whole world, not just the states in the area, is responsible for stability in the Middle East.

Concerning the role of Bahrain in case war breaks out in the Arab region, the minister said: We are a member of the Arab League, and we will support any Arab state that is attacked. But we cannot give military assistance because our forces in this respect are limited. We can offer something on the economic level. Even though we say this, at the same time we shall seek ways to reach a peaceful settlement of the issue.

Regarding the U.S. role in the Middle East, the minister said that the United States should take the lead in attaining a Middle East solution since it is a major power and is providing Israel with unlimited aid.

With regard to the Chinese role in the gulf area and the rest of the world, he said that the Chinese role is a distinguished one and that his country has (?cordial) economic relations with the PRC.

SAUDI ARABIA

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH MAURITIUS

LD070916Y Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0800 GMT 7 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 7 August--The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Mauritius have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level. This was announced in a statement issued today, the text of which read as follows:

Prompted by the desire to strengthen friendship between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Mauritius, the governments of the two countries have decided to establish diplomatic relations between them at embassy level.

YEMEN--PDRY

FOREIGN MINISTER MUTI' DENOUNCES NORTHERN PROPAGANDA

LD052212Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Aug 78 LD/EA

[Excerpts] Brother Muhammad Salih Muti', member of the Executive Committee and Presidential Council and minister of foreign affairs, has drawn attention to the dangers of hostile foreign intervention in the internal affairs of our Yemeni people.

He said this intervention has as its target the freedom of our people, their national independence and sovereignty and the peace and stability of our region.

Brother Muti' said: We are following every aspect of the hostile plan, from the threat to incite the brothers in the north to war, to political and economic pressure, to the provocative propaganda campaign being desperately waged by San'a' radio.

This was stated in the lecture given by the brother foreign minister this morning to members of the United Political Organization-National Front and the cadres and employees of the Foreign Ministry.

Brother Muhammad Salih explained that our stand remains one of not involving our people in the dangers of war or abusive language that does not serve the interests of the Yemeni people. He said we have not responded to attacks by San'a' radio and other media in the north against our regime because we are conscious of our historic responsibility not to promote tension among our Yemeni people. This does not mean that we cannot hit back against those who seek to create tension in our region. For until now, we have not said who killed the brother martyr Ibrahim al-Hamdi, nor have we clearly stated who the forces interfering directly in the internal affairs of our Yemeni people are, although we possess many real examples and evidence.

Brother Muti' wondered whether the true interests of our Yemeni people lay in perpetuating the state of tension and incitement to war among brothers and continuing the hysterical propaganda campaign in meeting and working to achieve Yemeni unity.

The brother foreign minister announced that Democratic Yemen was still committed to its sincere invitation to a brotherly dialog and had to put forward clear principles for this dialog.

Brother Muhammad Salih Muti' reviewed the recent developments in the Arab and international situations and their effect on our region and developments in the Red Sea. He affirmed that our foreign policy will continue to be based on the two principles of international solidarity and peaceful coexistence. He reiterated the desire of our country to establish normal relations based on the principles of peace, stability, nonintervention in internal affairs and mutual respect, with all the states of the world in general, and the states in this region in particular. He said that Democratic Yemen would accept no hostile foreign intervention, whatever its size and source, to the detriment of our independence and national sovereignty.

Brother Muti' hailed the developments of relations with the friendly socialist countries, headed by the Soviet Union, and praised them for their disinterested support and assistance to our Yemeni people.

ISMA'IL MEETS WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN ADEN

LD052350Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 5 Aug 78 LD

[Text] 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the Central Committee of the United Political Organization-National Front, received the comrade Soviet ambassador to Aden in his office last night.

In the course of the meeting, the comrade ambassador handed the brother secretary general a message from the Soviet leaders dealing with the development of bilateral relations between the two countries and the two parties.

INSTALLATIONS MINISTER LEAVES FOR DPRK, VIETNAM

LD051526Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Aug 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Central Committee and minister of installations, left Aden by air this morning for the DPRK and Vietnam.

As a special envoy of Presidential Council Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, he will deliver letters to the leaders of the two countries on the development of relations of friendship and cooperation, and the PDRY's views on recent events in Yemen.

YEMEN--YAR

CONTRACT SIGNED WITH GERMAN COMPANY TO BUILD AIRSTRIP

JN031545Y Baghdad INA in English 1445 GMT 3 Aug 78 JN

[Text] San'a', 3 August--A contract was signed here today with a West German company to build another airstrip in San'a' airport at the cost of 9 million dollars. The new airstrip will be 4 kms long and 23 meters wide.

VANCE ITINERARY, EGYPT'S STAND

[illegible]1535Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 4 August--U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will begin his visit to Egypt next Monday as part of a 5-day tour of the Middle East area. The tour begins today.

The U.S. secretary of state will be accompanied on his visit to Egypt by a delegation including William Quandt, member of the U.S. National Security Council and Middle East affairs expert; Harold Saunders, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South African affairs; and Charles Martins, Egypt Desk officer at the U.S. State Department.

The delegation also includes David Korn, Israel Desk officer at the U.S. State Department; Alfred Atherton, U.S. roving ambassador in the Middle East area; and George Sherman and Michael Sterner, U.S. State Department officials. U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Hermann Eilts will join the delegation.

President Anwar as-Sadat will hold important discussions with Cyrus Vance when he visits Egypt, connected with the developments in the Middle East in light of Israel's obstinance and its obstruction of the efforts to establish peace in the area and of the U.S. role in this regard. U.S. sources said that Cyrus Vance will convey a message to President as-Sadat from U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

In the meantime, Egyptian Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil is continuing his meeting with senior Foreign Ministry officials and his advisers to complete the drafting of a study on all apsects of the situationin the Middle East. In particular this study will deal with Israel's intransigence and its obstruction of the peace efforts by refusing to implement the UN resolutions, notably Resolution No 242, and the international position of the states concerned.

The study will also include the results of the visit of Alfred Atherton, the U.S. roving ambassador to the Middle East.

MENA has learned that the Egyptian position regarding the peaceful efforts to settle the Middle East conflict remained as announced by President Anwar as-Sadat: "Yes to neighborliness and to peace, but there will be no ceding of territory or sovereignty now or in the future--not even 1 centimeter in Sinai or the Arab territories."

MENA has also learned that Egypt welcomes Cyrus Vance's visit and the U.S. efforts on the basis of President Carter's statement in Aswan and on the grounds that the United States is a full partner in the affair. Egypt is willing to discuss proposals for the resumption of contacts for a just and comprehensive peace provided there are new elements and a clear and fixed Israeli position, especially with regard to Israeli acceptance of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and noninfringment of sovereignty and territory, and provided these contacts do not constitute an end in themselves but rather a means of achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Israel must refrain from placing obstacles in the way of peace by refusing to withdraw from the Arab territories. It should also implement Resolution 242 as it concerns the West Bank and stop its misleading campaign of lies against Egypt. These are new obstacles placed by Israel in the way of peace.

EGYPT TO ASK U.S. TO DECLARE STAND ON NEGOTIATIONS

NC070704Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0647 GMT 7 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 7 August--The newspaper AL-AHRAM today reports that Egypt will ask the United States during the talks which President Anwar as-Sadat and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil will have with U.S. Secretary Cyrus Vance to declare its position on the negotiation process in light of the declared U.S. attitude toward the Middle East crisis.

The paper says that the first working session in Alexandria today between Ibrahim Kamil and Cyrus Vance will review the Middle East situation in light of Israel's refusal to implement its commitments with respect to withdrawal and the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights. The meeting will also discuss what the United States can do in the next phase under these circumstances.

GHALI SAYS EGYPT COMMITTED TO SUMMIT RESOLUTIONS

NC041324Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that President as-Sadat's Middle East peace initiative has not changed Egypt's basic position regarding a peaceful settlement.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS, Dr Butrus Ghali added that Egypt is still committed to the Arab summit conference resolutions which call for complete Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories and recognition of the PLO as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He said that Egypt is convinced that Arab solidarity will be restored, and that all Egyptian efforts since the initiative have aimed at the resumption of the Geneva conference for peace in the Middle East.

Al-AHRAM on Vance's Visit

NC050750Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0625 GMT 5 Aug 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM today comments on the U.S. secretary of state's visit to the Middle East in a fresh attempt to give impetus to the peace progress. It begins by welcoming Vance's visit. This visit, it says, is in harmony with the framework envisaged by Egypt for boosting the peace process.

AL-AHRAM adds: It should be quite clear to everyone, however, that contacts and the continuation of contacts are not an end but a means to promoting a just and comprehensive peace.

AL-AHRAM points out that the question now, as Vance sets out on his tour, is: What is the U.S. position now that it has become evident to everyone that to the Begin government a settlement lies in the sharing of the occupied Palestinian territory with anyone who wishes to share it, through what it calls territorial concessions, and in not giving up any Arab territory in return for nothing? Now that Begin's position is fully exposed, does not this rejection of all peace efforts and of all UN resolutions completely torpedo all attempts to find a settlement?

AL-AHRAM emphasizes that at these crucial moments the U.S. Government should adopt a clear stand toward all those who stand in the way of a just settlement.

[illegible]: Washington is urged to adopt a different attitude and to be a partner in the [illegible] of a comprehensive peace in the area, and not merely a mediator between the parties. Egypt has defined and declared its position, whether inside the conference rooms or outside. This position is that Egypt is for a just settlement without forfeiting any territory or sovereignty. The road to peace is open to all those who want a just and honorable settlement. Peace according to the Israeli Government's way, based on the occupation of territory and flouting of UN resolutions, is rejected in letter and spirit. We believe that the time has come for the United States to assume its full responsibilities to save the situation.

OCTOBER on Begin's Policy

NC061241Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 6 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 6 August--Anis Mansur, chief editor of the Cairo magazine OCTOBER, in an article published today discusses the dimensions of Menahem Begin's obstinate policy toward the Middle East peace efforts and President Anwar as-Sadat's recent decision rejecting the proposal for a tripartite meeting in one of the early warning stations in Sinai.

The author explains that President as-Sadat's decision, which was another surprise, was the outcome of a long endurance of meetings, negotiations and Israeli procrastination. The decision was a logical one after Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan had said in the Leeds Castle conference and Begin had said in Jerusalem that there would be no territorial concessions, for whatever reason. He notes the Israeli Cabinet's decision rejecting the restoration of a single grain of Sinai sand without anything in return. He explains that Egypt's decision rejecting the Sinai meeting was a logical one in view of the Israeli decision. Otherwise it would have meant giving in, and at the same time Israel would have drawn us--and with us the United States--into a position making the withdrawal from this meeting imperative.

Anis Mansur notes that President as-Sadat's decision was misunderstood even by the Americans and by the Arab brothers, who linked the decision which President as-Sadat declared last Sunday with the visit of Saudi Crown Prince Fahd to Egypt. He says that there is absolutely no connection between this visit and the decision.

The author affirms that Egypt adopts its decisions without foreign influence of trusteeship. He notes that President as-Sadat had adopted a number of important decisions which surprised the closest Arab brothers and friends.

Anis Mansur says that Menahem Begin has reached the apex of mad intransigence. He says that Begin's recent behavior in the Knesset and the repugnant word he used in Russian show his inflexible madness or his mad inflexibility. He adds that the main evidence of his intransigence is the Israeli Cabinet's decision that Al-'Arish will not be a gift--that is, that it will not be given free.

In relation to the Sinai disengagement agreement and the presence of the UN emergency forces, Anis Mansur says that the Egyptian National Security Council will have to study the situation before next October, when the UN emergency forces' term expires. The presence of these forces was for a 3-year term, in accordance with our agreement with the United States.

Anis Mansur adds: We then have to consider the disengagement agreement, which provides that it is automatically renewable, unless a new agreement is concluded. This interpretation can be in our favor and can be in favor of the other side.

He says that more important than all this is that the United States join as a party, not merely as a referee in a boxing game which Begin wants to win by points after having been hit by the knock-out blow in the peace initiative.

He adds: The United States must confront Israel. U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance must publicly ask Begin: What exactly do you want? The United States has not so far performed the role required of it. Taking into consideration international ethics; the U.S. emphasis on peace; its eagerness to preserve its interests in the Middle East and to prevent the Red Sea, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea from becoming Red in color and ideology; it is incumbent upon the United States to embark upon its role in the Middle East.

Cairo Radio on U.S. Role

NC061536Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Aug 78 NC

[By Muhammad Sharaf]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance arrived in Israel yesterday to begin a new round of talks in Israel and Egypt. He said on his arrival that his visit comes at a time when the peace negotiations have reached a decisive point. It is known that the U.S. secretary of state talks with Begin's government today. He is expected to conclude the talks tomorrow and then leave for Alexandria for talks with President Anwar as-Sadat.

It is being reported that the United States might possibly present proposals aimed at resuming contacts between Egypt and Israel in the wake of Vance's current Middle East talks. These reports, however, have not been confirmed so far, although the U.S. secretary has pointed out that Washington has had the intention of presenting such proposals in October. It might, however, find itself compelled to reconsider presenting them.

The fact is that not much can be said about the U.S. secretary of state's visit, which has just started. Attention is drawn, however, to the statements which Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan made when he received the U.S. secretary of state. A quick look at these statements will reveal to us the evasive method to which Moshe Dayan always resorts, without mentioning anything new or worthwhile. The Israeli foreign minister, for example, has stated that all Israelis realize that there is no alternative to mutual concessions and compromises. From this statement we can deduce nothing, because it has become a known and firm fact that Egypt has nothing to concede other than the Arabs' sovereignty over their soil and territories and their legitimate rights. This is impossible even if the sky were to fall.

President Anwar as-Sadat has indisputably settled this point. Israel must commit itself to withdrawal from all the Arab territories it occupied in 1967, and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights must be guaranteed.

According to reports, the Israeli foreign minister also attempted to soften the atmosphere of pessimism prevailing in Israel when he said that it is possible that no direct negotiations will be held between Egypt and Israel but that such negotiations might continue in an indirect manner through U.S. mediation.

...s mean? Nothing. There must be a real basis for the continuation of the ..., whether direct or indirect. We have pointed out this basis and the Israeli ... minister is well aware of it. Once again, this basis is that Israel must commit itself to withdrawing from all the occupied Arab territories and guaranteeing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

What else do Moshe Dayan and Begin's government have? The Israeli foreign minister says that he believes that, through indirect talks, a new disengagement agreement can be reached with Egypt--an agreement that will create a suitable atmosphere for reaching a comprehensive agreement later on. What does Moshe Dayan mean by this? He means the renewal of the second Sinai disengagement agreement, which expires in October. On what basis does Dayan base this belief? On no basis at all. Begin's government wants to annex the occupied Arab territories in the West Bank, Gaza sector and Arab Jerusalem. It also wants to bury the Palestinian issue forever.

The Israeli foreign minister is either extremely naive or he believes that the Egyptians are extremely naive. Neither case is true. Therefore, what remains is for us to wait and see what the United States can do. It can do a great deal if it wishes.

NEW PARTY NAMED DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL PARTY

NC0613Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Aug 78 NC

[Text] The political party which President Anwar as-Sadat called for during the last meeting of the ASU Central Committee is to be called the Democratic National Party (al-hizb al-watani ad-dimuqrati). It will be led by President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat.

This was announced by Fikri Makram 'Ubyad, secretary general of the new party's temporary Constituent Committee, in a statement to a radio representative. He said that the party's temporary Constituent Committee, which comprises about 150 members, will meet on 10 Ramadan--which is a month of good omen--on the occasion of the victory Egypt and the Arab nation achieved on 10 Ramadan 1393 Hegira [6 October 1973].

Fikri Makram 'Ubayd said that the aims of the Democratic National Party center on achieving prosperity of the individual by securing food for every mouth, a house for every family, and freedoms for individuals and groups, as well as providing the necessary services for all the people through mass political work.

Fikri Makram 'Ubyad explained that the Democratic National Party is a popular party that stems from the masses and is not a party of authority or a government party. The party's detailed program will be debated by the masses in popular conference, which will begin after 10 Ramadan and will continue throughout the month of Ramadan in all provinces. In its adherence to the provisions of the parties law, the party will submit all papers and documents to the Parties Committee as stipulated in the law so that the party may officially begin its activities as soon as the Parties Committee issues its decision approving the formation of the party.

Dar al-Liwa', which is the house of the late national leader Mustafa Kamil and is located in the As-Sayyidah Zaynab quarter, has been chosen as the headquarters of the Democratic National Party led by President Anwar as-Sadat.

Cabinet Issues Statement

NC070621Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 6 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 6 August--The cabinet issued the following statement tonight:

After reviewing the development of democracy in Egypt, the cabinet believes that President as-Sadat's decision to form a new political party is a positive step on the course of Egyptian democratic action aimed at strengthening the internal front in order to attain prosperity for the Egyptian citizen and repulse the Israeli side's prevarications on the question of the liberation of Arab territory.

While pursuing the implementation of the state plan according to schedule, the cabinet believes that every serious national accomplishment and the implementation of the plan are a national requirement that will help in the creation of an appropriate atmosphere for democratic action under President as-Sadat.

In implementing their programs, the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt and the government have been inspired by President as-Sadat's ideas and national policy. The cabinet believes that continuing to work toward the necessary national goals is a national requirement that will help the reconstruction process led by President as-Sadat at the present time.

Information Minister Comments

NC070714Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 7 Aug 78 NC

[Excerpt] The cabinet met last night under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mamduh Salim. Information and Culture Minister 'Abd al-Mun'im as-Sawi has stated that at the beginning of the meeting the prime minister reviewed foreign affairs. Prime Minister Salim also reaffirmed the cabinet's support for the historic peace initiative led by President as-Sadat, and the cabinet's support for the position adopted by the president vis-a-vis the contacts with the Israeli side after the Israeli prime minister's procrastination and twisted methods became evident.

He added that the prime minister emphasized that the international community's consensus represented by Resolution 242 and Egypt's attitude toward this resolution are in full conformity with the internationally held view that Israel must withdraw from the territories occupied in 1967, that the acquisition of territory by force is unacceptable, that the Palestinian people's rights and Arab sovereignty must be restored, that secure and internationally recognized borders must be established, and that all sides have a right to live in peace.

The prime minister also affirmed that the Rabat conference resolutions lay down the basic principles, which are in harmony with the international view.

The information minister added that Prime Minister Salim pointed out that the Egyptian position is supported throughout the world because of the president's initiative; that peace cannot be established at the expense of territory or sovereignty, and that, on the occasion of the U.S. secretary of state's visit, Egypt believes that the effectiveness of the U.S. role depends on the United States playing its part as a partner whose responsibility to world peace is based on justice and security for all parties.

14 PARATROOP OFFICERS REPORTEDLY APPREHENDED

JN060914Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 6 Aug 78 JN

[Text] London, 6 August--In its issue to be published tomorrow, Monday, the [London-based] magazine AD-DUSTUR reports that the authorities of the Egyptian regime have recently apprehended 14 paratroop officers in the Egyptian Army and jailed them without interrogation.

AD-DUSTUR reports that the Egyptian paratroop officers are charged with acquiescing in the press conference which Lt Gen Sa'd ad-Din ash-Shadhili [former Egyptian chief of staff] recently held in Portugal on the ambiguities and problems which surrounded the 1973 October War.

It is noteworthy that the detained officers served under Ash-Shadhili's command when he was paratroop commander after the June 1967 war.

CITIZENS MOVEMENT AGREEMENT MADE WITH SUDAN

NC040842Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 4 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Movement of citizens between Egypt and Sudan began yesterday with the use of identity and family cards, in implementation of the decision adopted by the integration committee between the two countries. The implementation of the decision began in Aswan, where citizens of the integration area are allowed to travel between Aswan and the northern province of Sudan by using travel permits for several journeys instead of passports.

JANA: EGYPT, ISRAEL REACH AIR TRAFFIC ACCORD

LD032056Y Tripoli JANA in English 1825 GMT 3 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Amman, 3 August, JANA--Well-informed sources reported that an agreement had been concluded between (Israel) [as received] and the ruling regime in Egypt to organise flights between the two countries, including a special programme for visiting Cairo.

JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT 9 SEPTEMBER

NC051420Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1352 GMT 5 Aug 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 5 August--Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda will arrive in Cairo on 9 September. This will be the first visit by a Japanese prime minister, while in office, to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

EGYPT OBSERVES MOURNING PERIOD FOR POPE PAUL

NC070643Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 7 Aug 78 NC

[Text] The Arab Republic of Egypt yesterday declared a 7-day mourning period for His Holiness Pope Paul VI, who died from a heart attack last night at the age of 81.

BRIEFS

NEW AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR--Cairo, 6 August--Egypt approved today the appointment of Pierre Hutton as Australia's ambassador to Egypt. He will succeed Charles Robin Ashwin, who has been transferred to the Australian Foreign Ministry. [Text] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 1152 GMT 6 Aug 78 NC]

IRAQ DENIES PLO'S ALLEGATIONS ON ISLAMABAD ATTACK

JN051932Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1925 GMT 5 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 5 August--An official Iraqi spokesman has denied the claims made by the PLO Executive Committee regarding the Iraqi Government's connection with the attack against the PLO office in Islamabad.

In a statement to INA tonight, the spokesman reiterated that Iraq does not believe in such methods. The spokesman added that it has become obvious that these methods are part of the struggles which are currently taking place among certain sides of the Palestinian resistance.

He emphasized that Iraq has no connection with the aforementioned attack. He also reiterated what was declared last Thursday night to the effect that such acts are being perpetrated by the defeatist reactionary commands which during the past few days have carried out cowardly acts against the Iraqi missions in London, Paris and (?Karachi).

AMBASSADOR COMMENTS ON ATTACK ON PLO OFFICE

OW051830Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1818 GMT 5 Aug 78 OW

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 5 (AFP)--Pakistan authorities tightened up security measures as a hectic search got underway for the gunmen who made a lightning attack on the Palestine Liberation Organization mission here this morning, killing four people. All outlets were being watched by police in this capital city fringed by hills.

At the Iraqi Embassy, about three miles (4.8 klms) from the blood-stained PLO office, police vigilance was reinforced because of PLO allegations that the killers were Iraqis. "The charges are unfounded," Iraqi Ambassador Ahmad Zafar al-Jaylani told AFP. He said "We have sacrificed so much for the Palestinians. It is simply unbelievable that we will go around killing them."

The PLO mission chief, Yusuf Abu Hantash, had alleged that the assailants, who spoke Arabic with Iraqi accent, were brought in by the Iraqi Embassy and armed with sub-machine guns. PLO officials said about 15 Palestinian students were also present in the mission when it was attacked. A green Toyota Corolla arrived near the mission in the morning. Two men with a box got down and walked up to the office gate where a policeman was on duty. As they talked to the policeman, a PLO wireless operator came out to inquire. Suddenly, they opened the box, took out sub-machine guns and fired at the policeman and the wireless operator from close range, killing them instantly. The two rushed into the office, firing in all directions. They ransacked the office and fired bursts into rooms on the ground floor of the two-floor building and fled after a few minutes.

Mr Hantash said, "I was in my office on the second floor...but they did not enter it." He said the attackers tried to identify PLO officials while inside the building, but they could not because of the presence of Palestinian students. He said medical student Omar Khanfer was killed in the visitors room as a bullet hit him, while the PLO commando Mohammad al-Hussain was gunned down in the backyard. The attackers kept on shouting, "Where is Abu Hantash?"

A Pakistan Government press note on the incident said that the Federal Investigation Agency had been entrusted with the investigation. Police sources said a case had been registered on charges of murder and contravention of explosives act on the report of a PLO office official and a driver.

They said police were checking hotels in the capital as well as in nearby Rawalpindi. Strict vigilance was also being maintained at the Islamabad International Airport.

Postmortem was done on the bodies of the four killed in the attack. The bodies of the Palestinians had been handed over to the PLO mission and these might be flown out of Pakistan to their respective homes for burial.

BA'TH COMMAND WARNS RIGHTISTS AGAINST ATTACKS

JN061410Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 6 Aug 78 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 6 August--The National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has warned the capitulatory reactionary leaders of Fatah and plotters against continuing with their treacherous and cowardly attacks on Iraqi diplomatic missions abroad. The command also urged all honest Palestinian forces to be careful not to be drawn into the present state of chaos and fratricide and not to get involved in any reprisal attacks. This came in a statement made today by the spokesman of the party National Command.

The spokesman said that during the past few weeks certain capitulatory reactionary leaders of Fatah and plotters launched a campaign of slander and false allegations against the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the revolutionary government in Iraq.

This campaign was accompanied by repeated attacks by these leaders on the rejectionist Palestinian groups in Lebanon and also on patriotic Palestinian figures who opposed their deviationist political line. Recently these attacks were followed by further treacherous and cowardly attacks on the Iraqi diplomatic missions in London, Paris, Karachi and Beirut.

The spokesman added: Every honest Arab citizen is now asking about the reasons for and the outcome of this campaign. Therefore, it is our duty to state the facts.

The spokesman said that these reactionary leaders, who for some years have been pursuing the line of capitulatory settlements and have declared by various means their readiness to make basic concessions of land and sovereignty rights in Palestine, are now facing complete bankruptcy before the masses. However, instead of returning to the correct path of national liberation struggle and achieving the solid unification of the Palestinian strugglers and the Arab revolutionary forces, these leaders have resorted to provoking sideshows and kicking up false uproars to cover up their political bankruptcy and continuous deviation from the old patriotic and nationalist line.

The spokesman continued: The recent attempts against Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the revolution in Iraq have completely exposed the plans of these reactionary leaders. The experiences of recent years have proved that Iraq, under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has always been more persistent in the national resurrection of the Palestinian question and in the rejection of capitulatory political settlements, and this fact greatly embarrassed the capitulatory leaders. Moreover, Iraq has always been and will continue to be the center of effective support for all the Palestinian and Arab forces rejecting the capitulatory settlements.

The spokesman added: By their rabid campaign against the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the revolutionary government in Iraq, the reactionary leaders of Fatah and the PLO aim at achieving nonnationalistic goals. They think that in doing so they can dampen the Iraqi people's enthusiasm for the Palestinian question and their willingness to shoulder all the resultant burdens and sacrifices. They also think that they can wipe out the old national concept of Arab struggle, which considers the Palestinian question as the main Arab cause--a cause which is not the personal property of any particular leadership or organization to dispose of or concede according to its own whims and circumstances.

The spokesman said: We are placing all these facts before the Arab masses and call upon the Palestinian and Arab masses and all the revolutionary Arab forces to assume their responsibility in disclosing the nonnationalist and dishonest aims behind the deviationist behavior of these leaderships.

The spokesman asserted that, speaking from its position of national responsibility, the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party warns these capitulatory and reactionary leaders against continuing their attacks on the Palestinian groups rejecting the capitulatory settlements. It also warns them against continuing their treacherous and cowardly attacks on Iraqi diplomatic missions abroad. Also speaking from a position of national responsibility, the National Command urges all honest Palestinian forces not to be drawn into the present state of chaos and unjustifiable fratricide, in which the capitulatory, reactionary leaderships are trying to involve everyone. Therefore, we urge the need to stop all acts of reprisal and revenge, such as the attacks carried out against the PLO offices in Paris and Islamabad.

The spokesman said that the National Command calls, in all sincerity and firmness, for adherence to the noble and higher ideals of struggle and to protracted and patient popular struggle, which is the only effective means to change the balance in the interest of the popular forces, eliminate reactionary and deviationist leaders and consolidate our brave struggle for the liberation of all the Palestinian Arab soil.

HAMMADI ON PALESTINIAN AID, SOVIET RELATIONS

NC0611200Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 6 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 6 August--Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi has affirmed that when Iraq extends aid to a Palestinian resistance group, Iraq does not formulate the policy of this group. He also stressed that Iraq has absolutely nothing to do with the activities carried out by the resistance groups or with what is happening among the Palestinians.

In an interview published today by the Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS, Doctor Hammadi explained that Iraq has extended well-known aid to the PLO. However, Doctor Hammadi noted, this extension of aid does not signify that Iraq cannot criticize some actions and stances aiming toward peaceful solutions. [as received]

Doctor Hammadi announced that the U.S. threats to intervene in the gulf constitute a serious matter. He said that the United States primarily seeks to impose its influence on this area by exploiting the oil produced in the Arab Gulf. In affirming that Iraq's attitude toward the security of the gulf area remains unchanged, Doctor Hammadi said: "We believe that the best means to preserve the Arab Gulf's security is to abide by the freedom of navigation for all, and to develop further the relations existing among the littoral states of the gulf."

The Iraqi foreign minister added that his country's relations with Moscow remain unchanged, and that the execution of 21 Iraqi communists had been an internal affair. Doctor Hammadi described Iraq's relations with Iran as "very good."

In the course of the interview, the Iraqi foreign minister also said: As far as the security issue is concerned, we base our attitude on a fundamental interest, namely, that the Arab world's security must be tackled within the Arab group of states and on the basis of the joint Arab defense treaty.

In concluding the interview, Doctor Hammadi said: "We are not in favor of the establishment of security blocs in the Arab world, regardless of the causes calling for the establishment of such blocs."

AL-JUMHURIYAH SCORES PLO 'REACTIONARY' LEADERS

JN051023Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0718 GMT 5 Aug 78 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 5 August--AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses in its editorial today that the reactionary and capitulatory PLO leaders are stupid if they think they can make people believe in the existence of an Iraqi-Palestinian conflict. The paper says that the basic contradiction and the central conflict raging at present is between the forces of revolution and liberation, headed by the Ba'th Party, and the forces of capitulation and reactionary apostasy wallowing in the mud of the U.S.-Zionist settlement.

The paper points out that the entire world now realizes that the Palestinian rejectionist front and the military bases of the Palestinian revolution are repulsing the efforts of the new Al-Jao'barites [reference to former Hebron mayor] in the PLO command to create an atmosphere of desperation and to settle for less. They advocate participating in the settlement negotiations in the hope they can salvage some crumbs and bones.

The paper says in conclusion: "We will accept nothing less than a free and unified Arab Palestine. Let those who squander the rights of the nation and the homeland jump in the lake."

HEALTH MINISTRY OFFICIAL REPORTS CHOLERA CASES

JN030952Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 3 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 3 August--The Health Ministry announced today that three cholera cases have been identified. Two citizens carrying the cholera microbe were discovered in the Suq ash-Shuyukh Qada in the Dhi Qar Governorate in southern Iraq. A responsible source in the ministry told INA that the sick are in no danger and no deaths have occurred from the disease. He said that health authorities continue their large-scale campaign in the Dhi Qar Governorate and the nearby governorates. A close watch is being maintained, and drinking water has been examined. He stressed that conditions are reassuring. Early this week two cholera cases were discovered in the Dhi Qar Governorate.

BEIRUT RADIO REPORTS ON AL-HUSS-AL-AS'AD MEETING

NC0514l4Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Aug 78 NC

[Excerpt] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad met for 1 hour today with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss with whom he reviewed the development of the political and security situation following the Syrian delegation's visit to Beirut 2 days ago. They also discussed the position of the Lebanese military units in Kawkaba and the current contacts in this respect.

Prime Minister al-Huss later told reporters: I briefed Speaker al-As'ad of the outcome of the talks held with Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi. I also discussed with Speaker al-As'ad the session of the joint committees which was held Monday morning. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss the general security and political situation in the country.

Asked about the entry of army units into southern Lebanon, al-Huss said: The contacts in this respect are taking place at diplomatic and UN levels.

Asked if there were any Syrian conditions in relation to southern Lebanon, he said: There were no conditions.

Asked if a date was fixed for his Damascus visit, Al-Huss said: A date has not been fixed.

Asked about an improvement in the security situation, Al-Huss said: We greatly hope for this.

AL-HUSS STATEMENT AFTER MEETING WITH BRITISH AMBASSADOR

NC0610l6Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 6 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss met with British Ambassador to Lebanon Peter Wakefield this morning. After the meeting, Prime Minister al-Huss said: The British ambassador acquainted me with his government's current moves to speed up the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 and 426 and remove the obstacles in the way of the army's advance in the south.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS ON AL-JUMAYYIL'S ACTIVITY

NC0514l4Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1415 GMT 5 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Contacts took place this morning between the Presidential Palace in B'abda and the Phalangist Party headquarters. During the contacts it was decided that President Ilyas Sarkis and Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil would meet at 1100 on Monday.

Al-Jumayyil has also received a delegation of the Orthodox community league to discuss current political and security affairs.

Al-Jumayyil has also chaired a meeting of the party's regular forces. During the meeting he asked these forces to expercise self-restraint as far as possible.

Al-Jumayyil later met with Henry Far'awn, chairman of the Beirut Port Administration, with whom he discussed the question of making the port operational again. Al-Jumayyil reaffirmed that he is devoting all his resources to this purpose and said: We ask all friends and sincere people to contribute toward making the port operational again. The port is vital to the overall Lebanese economy.

ARMY COMMANDER ISSUES ORDER OF DAY TO MILITARY

NC050802Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 5 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Gen Victor Khuri, the army commander, issued the following order of the day to all military personnel this morning:

To the men who are writing through their will a new and brilliant page in the history of the noble Lebanese Army; to the elite military group which is advancing to take its natural place in the land of the south; and to those who are confronting through their faith the fire of terrorism and the steel of obduracy; I salute you--officers, men of various ranks, and privates. I also assure you that your comrades in arms are standing behind you in full readiness to support you. Your comrades in arms also enjoy the support of all Lebanese people. We are confident that you are able to surmount difficulties in order to restore to your army its dignity and assert for Lebanon its dignity wherever your forces go.

Soldiers: Perhaps the mission which you are carrying out is one of the most sacrosanct missions which have been entrusted to your army since its beginning. Stand prepared to carry out the other phases with the same determination and faith. You may know that we devote all attention to the safety of everyone of you and that we are confident of your success. This is so because difficult tasks are assigned only to the elite on whose shoulders armies are built.

Men: Your command is living all the phases of the implementation of your mission in order to raise the banner of righteousness high over the land of the south and so that this banner will vanquish the slogans of injustice and falsehood. You are crowning Lebanon with laurels and, thus, you are worthy of Lebanon's praise and appreciation.

Long live the army!

INTERNAL SECURITY DIRECTOR SUBMITS RESIGNATION

NC041702Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1615 GMT 4 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Staff Col Ahmad al-Haj has officially submitted his resignation from the post of director general of the Internal Security Forces. Colonel al-Haj submitted his resignation in a letter he presented to Interior Minister Dr Salah Salman 2 days ago. The officials kept the resignation secret in the hope that the current endeavors to make Colonel al-Haj withdraw his resignation would succeed.

It has been learned from informed sources in the Interior Ministry that Colonel al-Haj resigned because he is unhappy with the way a number of officers, including Lebanese Army Chief of Staff Staff Col [as heard] Munir Tarabay, were recently promoted.

Resignation 'Frozen'

NC050755Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 5 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Observers expect the problem of the entry into the south by the military unit stationed at Kawkaba to be resolved within the next few hours in view of the concerted diplomatic efforts which are being exerted at home and abroad.

However, things are still being said in a hesitant, speculative and expectant way about the security problem which is equally preoccupying international and local public opinions.

Some diplomatic quarters believe that these irresponsible actions [not further specified] will be ended. These actions are being carried out in the name of Lebanese legitimacy, but this legitimacy has become a smokescreen while it has absolutely nothing to do with all the things that are going on. Furthermore, legitimacy has no prior knowledge of what is going on. The proof is that some of the Lebanese officials in charge of security have risen in defense of their dignity and have refused to engage in perjury. This step which has been taken by Brig Gen Ahmad al-Haj, the director general of the Internal Security forces, has served to curtail these allegations. Brigadier General al-Haj has resigned. However, it has been reported that his resignation is being frozen for some time, but he still wants to spend a few weeks abroad.

VOICE OF LEBANON ON SECURITY SITUATION 4 AUGUST

NC041234Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 4 Aug 78 NC

[Text] As far as the security situation is concerned, the Voice of Lebanon correspondent reports that the Al-Murabitun[Independent Nasirite Movement] and some Palestinians have set up a joint camp between 'Anut and Shhim in the Ash-Shuf district and that training in the use of various kinds of weapons is taking place there.

In Beirut, sniper fire continued on some combat lines, notably on the confrontation lines in the 'Ayn ar-Rummanah area. At 1015 today, four artillery shells fell in the Wata' al-Mysaytibah and in Bi'r Hasan. These shells were reportedly fired from tanks.

It is reported from the north that clashes among the Palestinians were renewed today in the Al-Biddawi area. About an hour later, vehicles equipped with loudspeakers belonging to the armed struggle asked all combatants to cease fighting and to permit the wounded to be moved from the battlefield. Committees have been formed to prevent the renewal of the clashes.

At 0030 today, a Syrian Army force blew up the Phalangist office building in the (Kafr 'Abidah) in the Al-Batrun district. The whole building was destroyed. The question is: Are such actions included in the task of the Syrian deterrent forces and do they come within the context of the preservation of security and Lebanese legitimacy, as is being accounced?

Reports Deterioration in Beirut

NC041741Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1615 GMT 4 Aug 78 NC

[Excerpt] The security situation in Beirut and its suburbs is deteriorating this evening, as has been happening every evening. The situation always begins to deteriorate with the Syrian forces directing a few sniper shots at pedestrians. This is followed a few minutes later by intermittent shelling which soon intensifies by nightfall.

The situation erupted in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah area this afternoon when a number of citizens were subjected to sniper fire and had to be taken to the hospital. Two people died. At the time this newscast was being prepared, there was intermittent shelling all along the 'Ayn ar-Rummanah line and in some quarters of Al-Ashrafiyah.

The Fifth Branch of the Lebanese forces command issued a statement a short while ago saying that Syrian sniper fire has been directed since the morning at the 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and Ash-Shiyah lines. The fire intensified at noon when machineguns and anti-armor guns were used, accompanied by artillery shelling. Two civilians were killed and eight others wounded, including six women.

The statement concluded by saying that the Lebanese forces units continued to abide by the orders given to them by their command to retaliate only in cases of extreme necessity and in self-defense and to use only their private weapons in such cases.

ARAB DETERRENT FORCES ISSUE STATEMENT 4 AUGUST

NC041911Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Aug 78 NC

[4 August statement by a responsible source of the Arab Deterrent Forces Command]

[Text] The western area of Beirut was shelled this morning. The Arab Deterrent Forces Command ascertained that the shells were aimed at offices of the National Fund for Social Insurance. At about 0915, five shells fell near the Health Insurance Brance between Beirut Hospital and the Renault Company in Bi'r Hasan. Two other shells fell in the As-Safa' playground near the National Fund for Social Insurance office in Wata' al-Musaytibah. One shell fell near the brick factory, 100 meters west of the Social Insurance General Administration. This shelling followed a threat given to the administration of this fund by known persons who made their threat on 3 August 1978 to compel the administration to abandon some administrative measures which it has recently adopted. The offices of the administration were shelled because it refused to accede to the wishes of those who made the threats. The shelling resulted in material damage only. The Arab Deterrent Forces Command will place the information it has in this regard at the disposal of the judiciary.

In 'Ayn ar-Rumannah, armed men continued to provoke the Arab Deterrent Forces today by opening sniper fire at times and shelling at others. Six rockets fell in Al-Ghubayrah and two in Wata' al-Musaytibah, killing Mustafa Salman and Hasan Rabi' and wounding 16 other persons. The Mar Mikha'il and Galerie Sim'an lines are still completely cut off as a result of the sniper fire from 'Ayn ar-Rumannah.

The situation in al-Ashrafiyah remained quiet until 1900 when armed men began to set up new barriers in order to get near the deterrent forces positions and hide behind these barriers to open sniper fire. This situation soon developed into a clash which forced the deterrent forces to answer the sources of fire by a concentrated shelling of the positions of the armed men.

The other areas experienced marked quiet all day.

5 August Statement

NC051833Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Asked about the security situation in Beirut and the suburbs, a responsible source with the Arab Deterrent Forces command today said: For the fourth consecutive day, armed men in the 'Ayn ar-Rumannah area have been able to cut off the Galerie Sim'an-As-Sayyad Circle-Camille Sham'un Boulevard road by opening heavy sniper fire on the Arab Deterrent Forces positioned along these lines. One soldier was wounded in the Chevrolet area at 1330.

After 1300, the sniping turned into mortar shelling of the Arab Forces in Sinn al-Fil, Jisr al-Basha, and the Chevrolet and Galerie Sim'an areas. The Arab Deterrent Forces observation organs have been able to pinpoint the gun emplacements, which, it has transpired, are positioned mainly within the residential quarters in the areas of 'Ayn ar-Rumannah and Furn ash-Shubbak Circle. An artillery emplacement in Ad-Dubayyah area was used today to shell the forces in Sin al-Fil.

The Arab Deterrent Forces continue to abide by the decision not to return the fire. No incidents have been reported from the other areas.

VOICE OF LEBANON REFUTES DETERRENT FORCES' STATEMENT

NC050720Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 5 Aug 78 NC

[Text] The capital and its southern suburbs have again been subjected to artillery shelling directed at residential quarters. The citizens went down to the shelters, while some buildings were on fire and some citizens were wounded. The shelling lasted until this morning. It was intense at times and intermittent at others. Explosions are still being heard in some suburbs of the capital. We have been informed that sniper fire coming from Ash-Shiyah is still being directed at 'Ayn ar-Rummanah. Up to this moment, we have not received a list of losses of life and damages to property.

The Deterrent Forces Command issued a statement and kept on repeating it last night. This statement almost looks like a defense plea on behalf of the shelling and sniping directed everywhere and carried out by the forces of the Syrian Command.

The Deterrent Forces Command charged that the artillery shelling, which former President Sham'un has frankly said came from Sinn al-Fil and Dahr al-Jamal, was carried out by the Social Insurance employees who had not received their pay and who had allegedly threatened to take some kind of action against the Social Insurance Administration. Therefore, Wata' al-Musaytibah and the area adjacent to the Social Insurance Building were shelled.

The Deterrent Forces Command used as evidence a shell which fell some 100 meters away from the Social Insurance building. The Deterrent Forces Command added that this information will be placed at the disposal of the judiciary.

Meanwhile, the artillery of the deterrent forces fired in all directions, even in the direction of the courthouse complex and the surrounding area. According to the above-mentioned fact, the judiciary will be unable to consider the aforementioned information because the courthouse complex has been shelled.

Reports Heavy Night Shelling

NC060626Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 6 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Al-Ashrafiyah and its suburbs went through a long night of concentrated shelling from heavy artilery guns. Al-Ashrafiyah quarter and streets were shelled for over 6 hours. The shelling, which destroyed buildings and set them on fire, ceased at 0400 today. Experts estimate that about 2,000 rounds were fired apart from several rpg's. The streets today were covered with rubble, glass and damaged vehicles. It has been learned that more than 50 persons have been killed or wounded. The small number of casualties was due to the fact that the citizens spent the night in shelters.

Fires broke out in several buildings. Citizens assisted firemen in containing the fires. Some artillery fire was directed against the Internal Security Forces' headquarters, which received three hits. The shelling was also directed against some centers of the Phalangist and the National Liberal Parties.

It was reported this morning that some shells were fired on the western sector of Beirut at midnight.

No reason was given for the persistent shelling of specific quarters and areas in Beirut and its suburbs. The shelling has continued for 37 days while no other war in this area lasted for more than 6 days. Foreign observers and diplomats note that the Lebanese have shown considerable self-restraint. More than 200 have been killed and 1,000 have been wounded in the past 5 weeks, about 3,000 houses have been destroyed or set on fire and tens of thousands of families have been forced to leave their homes.

BAGHDAD RADIO REPORTS FIERCE FIGHTING 6 AUGUST

JN061243Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Beirut--The security situation has continued to deteriorate. This morning fierce fighting flared up between the deterrent forces of the Syrian regime and the rightist militias. Reports from Beirut say that the Syrian regime's forces shelled rightist positions in the eastern part of the city with artillery. Renewed fighting broke out after the communique issued by the forces of the Syrian regime on the situation in the area.

BEIRUT RADIO REPORTS WORSENING OF SITUATION

NC061814Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Aug 78 NC

[Text] The security situation deteriorated this evening. Explosions were heard in parts of the capital and some of the suburbs. Limited clashes took place along some of the traditional lines. This followed a day of guarded calm, during which no significant incidents were reported.

Incendiary Shelling Reported

NC051957Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1915 GMT 5 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Artillery shells, some of them incendiary, were fired at the Al-Ashrafiyah area at 2110 today, setting a number of houses on fire. Machinegun bursts were also heard. The losses have not yet been determined. However, according to preliminary reports there were only material losses.

The situation in Al-Ashrafiyah and the suburbs was calm but tense this evening, until a little after 2100 when shelling operations were resumed without reason.

In a statement he made a short time ago, former President Camille Sham'un said that it should not be claimed that the shelling originated from the Ad-Dubayyah area and the Deterrent Forces should not use this false report as an excuse to shell peaceful residential areas.

Artillery shelling of the Al-Ashrafiyah area was resumed at 2155. The contacts we have carried out so far indicate that the shelling has damaged a number of buildings. It is not yet known if there were any casualties. The inhabitants rushed to the shelters.

AL-ASHRAFIYAH RESIDENTS APPEAL TO SARKIS FOR CEASE-FIRE

NC061723Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1615 GMT 6 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Dozens of families beseiged in Al-Ashrafiyah sent a letter today to President Ilyas Sarkis, asking him to order an immediate halt to the shelling and sniper fire so the people may see to their needs. The letter says: Mr President, issue orders for a cease-fire so that we can depart if the legitimate authorities want us to depart, or obtain food and medicine if we are compelled to stay.

MENA CITES PRIME MINISTER ON SOUTHERN LEBANON

NC041612Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 4 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 4 August--Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has emphasized that the Lebanese Army unit will not retreat and will not change its course of entry into the south. He added that the advantage of this unit and the way it will deal with the situation it is facing will depend on military considerations which will be assessed in the field, mainly by the military command in cooperation with the UN forces command.

Asked what would happen if the frontier officers maintain their attitude, Dr al-Huss said: The position of Majors Sa'd Haddad and Sami Shidyaq is that of any officer who sides with the enemies of his country and stands in the way of his country's army while on its way to carry out a national duty assigned to it by the legitimate authority.

Answering a question, Dr al-Huss said that the question of requesting the Security Council to discuss Israel's obstruction of the implementation of the Security Council resolution on the south will be decided in the light of the extensive diplomatic contacts which Lebanon is currently conducting and of the contacts which Lebanon's permanent delegate in New York is holding with the UN Secretariat General, representatives of the Security Council's member states and the Arab group at the United Nations.

SOUTHERNERS PROTEST AL-HUSS REMARKS ON MILITIA MAJORS

NC041735Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1615 GMT 4 Aug 78 NC

[Text] The tug of war among the various parties is continuing in the south. This game resembles psychological warfare because of the conflicting positions and the lack of positive evidence that the promises will be fulfilled. The only positive factor so far is the announcement of a 24-hour armistice, which will end tomorrow morning when the details of the situation in the south should become clear.

What is new though is that the ambassadors of the major Western states expressed their wish to the Lebanese Government not to link the completion of the entry of the army into the south with the recall of the frontier officers. Some ambassadors have suggested to the Lebanese Government that it hold back on the decision to recall officers Haddad and Ash-Shidyaq provided the local Lebanese forces in the south refrain from obstructing the deployment of the army unit, which is now in Kawkaba. It appears that some responsible Lebanese quarters have been won over to this idea. President Ilyas Sarkis and Minister Fu'ad Butrus will seek the approval of Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss. However, Prime Minister al-Huss anticipated this move and made a statement this afternoon in which he said: The position of the two officers, Sa'd Haddad and Sami ash-Shidyaq, is tantamount to that of any officer who sides with the enemies of his country against his country's army while on its way to carry out a national role assigned to it by the legitimate authority.

The prime minister's statement has had an adverse reaction among the southerners. A demonstration has been staged in the border town of Metulla demanding that the new army unit be prevented from entering the border area. The demonstrators declared their support for the local Lebanese forces there.

It was reported this evening that the U.S. pressure on Israel has not yet led to a change in the situation in the south despite the promises which the diplomats conveyed to the Lebanese Foreign Ministry. What confirms this is the statement which U.S. Ambassador Richard Parker made after meeting with Minister Fu'ad Butrus today. Parker said that there are no positive elements; there are only positive possibilities.

It has been learned that Ambassador Parker conveyed to Minister Butrus clarifications from Washington on some matters Butrus had asked about. Well-informed sources have stated that the U.S. answers confirm that pressure continues to be exerted on Israel and that it is necessary to take into consideration the differences within the Israeli Government. This explains why there have been no positive developments which would facilitate the deployment of the army in the south.

The Israeli leaders believe that the army's entry into the south in accordance with the existing plan does not constitute a victory for the legitimate Lebanese authorities inasmuch as it puts a winning military card in the hands of Syria. Syria could benefit from this in its stand of rejecting the peaceful solution and the direct Arab-Israeli talks.

MENA CITES U.S. AMBASSADOR ON CONTACTS WITH ISRAEL

NC041631Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 4 Aug 78 NC

[Excerpts] Beirut, 4 August--U.S. ambassador in Beirut Richard Parker conveyed to Lebanese Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus today the results of the contacts which the U.S. Government has held with Israel regarding the position of the Lebanese forces in the south.

In a statement after his meeting with Fu'ad Butrus, the U.S. ambassador said there were no positive developments but that there were positive possibilities. The ambassador did not explain what he meant by this statement but the general impression is that the problem of these forces remains unsolved.

UNIFIL COMMANDER MEETS WITH UN COMMAND AT AN-NAQURAH

NC041239Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 4 Aug 78 NC

[Text] General Erskine, commander of the UN forces in the south, has presided over a meeting held by the command of the UN forces at An-Naqurah. At this meeting, General Erskine briefed the conferees on the results of the talks which he held in Kawkaba with Lt Col Adib Sa'd, with General Cuq attending.

UN forces command sources have stated that there will be encouraging developments in a few hours related to the entry of the army into the south.

At 1400 yesterday, General Erskine, accompanied by General Cuq, inspected the Lebanese Army force stationed in Kawkaba. The two generals said they were gratified by the presence of this force and expressed their readiness to help it take up positions in its assigned areas.

Affirms Cooperation With Army

NC041800Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 Aug 78 NC

[Text] The UN official spokesman in Beirut, citing reports from An-Naqurah, has stated the following: Gen Emanuel Erskine has visited the Lebanese Army units in the area of the UN forces zone of operations. These units are stationed temporarily in Kawkaba. He was accompanied on his visit to all the Lebanese army positions there by the Lebanese force commander, Col Adib Sa'd.

General Erskine seized this opportunity to underscore the UN forces total cooperation with the Lebanese Army units to [enable them to] accomplish their mission.

General Erskine also called on the commander of the Nepalese contingent and the commander of the Norwegian contingent in their positions, which were affected by the shelling in recent days. General Eskine commended the ability of the Lebanese Army units and the Nepalese and Norwegian contingents to maintain self-restraint in the face of fire. For example, the Nepalese forces were the target of about 220 artillery and mortar rounds. Some shells fell only 15 meters from their positions. Three Lebanese soldiers were wounded, one of them seriously. The Lebanese, Nepalese and Norwegian forces endured this and did not fire a single shot.

General Erskine expressed hope that the present problem facing the plan for the development of the Lebanese Army will be solved and that the calm which prevailed in the area this Thursday will continue.

INA REPORTS ON SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

JN050930Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 5 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 5 August--The joint forces repulsed Zionist enemy gunboats which entered [Lebanese] territorial waters near Sidon last night, forcing them to flee. The INA correspondent in southern Lebanon reports that the gunboats were accompanied by Zionist enemy planes when they entered the territorial waters near Sidon.

In another development, the correspondent reports that the UN interim forces, which are still on alert, have taken up positions along the road leading from At-Tayyibah near Marj 'Uyun to Tibnin. This is the road which the Lebanese battalion now in Kawkaba will use en route to its final designated positions in Tibnin.

Citing arrivals from villages along the border strip with the enemy, the correspondent reports that clashes erupted last night between the rightist forces in (Al-'Atisah) on the southwestern border with occupied Palestine. At least two persons wounded during the clashes were taken through the "good fence" to hospitals in the occupied territory.

ISRAELI: CHRISTIANS DENY ACCORD REACHED WITH ARMY UNIT

TA051822Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 5 Aug 78 TA

[Text] The Christian militias in southern Lebanon denied having reached an agreement with the commanders of the Lebanese battalion about letting the battalion pass through the enclaves. Our correspondent Yehezqel Hame Iri learned that the militia forces are still resolved to prevent, at all costs and under all circumstances, the passage of the battalion southward.

There were no results in the talk between Major Sa'd Haddad and the commander of the Lebanese battalion yesterday either. The representatives of the militias demanded that the battalion return to its bases in the north and warned that they would take serious measures if the force continued its stay in the Kawkaba region.

Nevertheless, absolute quiet has prevailed over the last 24 hours in the area where the Lebanese Army's regular battalion is encamped, and the Christians announced that to demonstrate their good will they did not open fire.

There was a heavy flow of visitors at the good fence area near Metulla.

VOICE OF LEBANON: SA'D BRIEFS ARMY COMMANDER KHURI

NC060629Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 6 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Staff Lt Col Adi Sa'd, commander of the southern front, arrived yesterday in the army command in Al-Yarzi where he briefed the Lebanese Army commander, Gen Victor Khuri, on the contacts held with various parties and the results reached. Lieutenant Colonel Sa'd will return to Kawkaba to convey to the officers and men the instructions and orders of the Lebanese Army Command.

ISRAELI RADIO CITED ON REAL COMMANDER IN SOUTH

NC061715Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Aug 78 NC

[Excerpts] There have been no new developments in the south, particularly concerning the Lebanese military unit which has been in Kawkaba for 1 week. Some UN and local Lebanese forces officers have inspected this unit. Some foreign reporters are expected to visit this unit, examine its present situation and acquaint themselves with the reasons preventing its advancement toward Tibnin.

Foreign diplomatic sources have stated that the problem of the advancement of the Lebanese military unit from Kawkaba to Tibnin was discussed today by U.S. Secretary of State Vance, who is now visiting Tel Aviv, and Israeli officials.

Concerning Tel Aviv and the south, we point out that Israeli radio reported more than once today that Major Ibrahim Shahin is the actual commander of the Lebanese military unit which is now in Kawkaba, that he was an officer of the one-time so-called Arab army of Lebanon, and that he later joined the pro-Syrian vanguards army when the Syrian forces entered the Al-Biqa' area. The reports say that Israel considers this a serious matter and that as a result it is reconsidering the previous moderate position it adopted regarding the advance of this unit toward Tibnin.

KHADDAM: PALESTINIANS CAN OPERATE FROM SYRIA

LD041521Y Beirut EVENTS in English 11 Aug 78 p 16 LD

["Exclusive interview" with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam; no date or dateline given]

[Text] Question: Would Syria permit Palestinian commando action against Israel from its territories?

Answer: Palestinian resistance against the enemy is legitimate on all Arab fronts including the Syrian one. Our Palestinian brothers know very well that all facilities are available to them to operate from the Syrian front. It is not the duty of Arab governments to provide the Israeli enemy with security and the Palestinians have the right to carry out their struggle from all Arab territories.

Question: All Palestinian groups?

Answer: The Palestine Liberation Organisation, it includes everybody.

Question: Do you believe that Egypt has dropped the PLO altogether from their policies? And is the organisation the same as it used to be?

Answer: As-Sadat did. But Egypt did not. The PLO today is stronger than at any other time. Its legality does not depend on whether As-Sadat supports it or not, but on the support of the Palestinian people themselves.

Question: There were accusations against Syria over her failure to intervene when Israel invaded southern Lebanon.

Answer: Syria did intervene. We gave the Palestinian resistance all the support they could absorb. Syria also opened its airspace and territory to anyone wishing to intervene. We placed a part of the Syrian Airforce at the disposal of the deterrent forces and it did cover Lebanese airspace and prevented further Israeli air raids. Our troops in the deterrent forces had instructions to fight the Israelis with all the weapons at their disposal.

Question: What were the motives of the Israeli invasion?

Answer: The aggression against southern Lebanon was aimed at:

1. Driving the Palestine resistance north where there was the danger of an internal security explosion. This would provide a diversion from the political contacts between As-Sadat and Israel.

2. Confronting Syria with the possibility of an armed clash in Lebanon, at a time of Israel's choosing and thus weakening Syria's ability for political and military action.

3. If Syria was able to foil that scheme, which is what happened when we faced the aggression without recourse to direct clashes, the next step would be a campaign in the pro-Zionist and Egyptian media aimed at undermining Syrian-Palestinian relations as well as Syrian-Arab relations.

Question: Do you still call As-Sadat a traitor?

Answer: We believe that he committed a serious deviation and rendered a great service to the enemy. When a senior official of a country renders services to the enemy, I do not know what would be the proper description. I did not use the word "traitor" specifically. [paragraph continues]

But there is a law in Egypt, the same as in Syria, dealing with people who establish contact with the enemy. Such a person is put on trial and the sentence is death. As-Sadat himself signed a number of decrees sentencing Egyptians to death for being in contact with Israel. In any case, that is not the core of the problem, whether to use the word "traitor" or not.

Question: But you will be trying him?

Answer: It is a political trial. He has, after all, committed a serious mistake.

Question: Will it be a trial similar to the Bertrand Russell tribunal?

Answer: Something like that.

Question: What if he is convicted?

Answer: The trial will be conducted by political and popular organisations in Arab countries. The sentence will be a political sentence. As for the legal aspect of it, that is an internal matter for our brothers in Egypt. We had hoped that the Egyptian president would not commit such a mistake. We knew in advance that he was not going to accomplish anything. President al-Asad warned him of the serious consequences involved, but As-Sadat persisted in his policy although it had been condemned to failure before it began.

Question: Do you think you can put an end to his initiative?

Answer: We are trying to because we care about Egypt and we love Egypt. We want to restore Arab solidarity. We want peace, but As-Sadat's methods will not lead to peace. Peace requires Arab solidarity.

Question: Can As-Sadat continue as president if he concludes a separate peace with Israel?

Answer: He may for a short while, but any peace he concludes will not last. Did Petain's policy achieve peace during the Second World War?

Question: What about King Husayn and the rejection front?

Answer: First of all there is no rejection front. There is a steadfastness front. Then there is nothing to lure King Husayn into the peace talks because there is nothing to offer him. The Israelis are determined not to withdraw from the West Bank. King Husayn assured us he would never commit such a folly and would not go against the Rabat summit resolutions, nor would he become a substitute for the Palestinians. That is what he told us in Damascus.

Question: What is the main outcome of the Damascus talks?

Answer: We agreed that President As-Sadat committed a grave mistake and that he will accomplish nothing.

ALGERIA

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON LIBYAN-ALGERIAN TALKS

LD060107Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 5 Aug 78 LD

[Text] A joint communique was issued a short while ago on the talks in Algiers between the delegations of the National Liberation Front (FLN) and the Libyan National People's Congress. The text states that these talks were held in an atmosphere of cordiality and fraternity and were concerned with bilateral relations as well as the two sides' experiences in the construction and consolidation of national institutions.

The talks also covered the foreign policy of the two countries, and in this field the two sides explained their positions on the problems facing the Arab nations, the African Continent, the Mediterranean and the nonalined countries. They also explained the state of their relations with the progressive and democratic forces throughout the world.

The two delegations reaffirmed their determination to continue their joint fight to attain their objectives and to safeguard and defend the supreme interests and legitimate rights of the Arab nation, particularly those of the Palestinian people. At the same time they renewed their commitment to consolidate the fight of the Arab peoples of Saqiyah al-Hamra and Wadi adh-Dhabab [Western Sahara] and they vigorously denounced the political, economic and military pressures directed against the PDRY. They also reiterated their militant solidarity with the patriotic and progressive forces in the Arab world, particularly with the Arab people of Egypt who are righting against the capitulationist regime.

Concerning Africa, the two sides condemned the aggressions, interventions and machinations of imperialism, colonialism and their agents aimed at destablizing progressive regimes and despoiling the African peoples of their natural wealth.

Finally, at the close of their talks, the Algerian and Libyan delegations concluded a protocol on a program of action reflecting the concordance of views on the questions examined.

LIBYA

ARABS MUST BE AWARE OF THREAT CAUSED BY VANCE VISIT

LD042130Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 4 Aug 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] The U.S. secretary of state is due to begin his visit to the region today with a visit to the Zionist enemy. Then he is to visit some Arab capitals. Observers of developments in our Arab region may ask what is new to be brought to the region by the U.S. secretary of state.

In view of the numerous visits to the region by U.S. officials without registering a single step forward along the road toward a solution even from a purely U.S. standpoint, observers feel inclined to discount any importance which may be attached to such visits or moves.

But since states, and especially big powers, believe time is too precious to waste, we once again wonder about the reasons and motives of these U.S. moves. Are they merely to cool down tempers or to sort out some confidential matters that are too difficult for ordinary people to understand?

It is said that it is the result that counts. But what are the real effective results secured by the Arab region from the total of U.S. moves? We do not want at present to enumerate the pitiful results reaped by Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat from his U.S. policy, but we wonder about the fate of the Arab region which has been battered in an unprecedented manner by U.S. moves.

Let us merely cast a glance at the latest U.S. attitude toward the region. We see, for example, that the United States staged three successive steps which involved antagonism and evil for the Arab nation. In this it does not discriminate between friend and foe.

For instance, we see that it has advised its nationals residing in Lebanon to leave at once. This is a clear U.S. sign suggesting that the civil war in Lebanon will continue to blaze. This has led to the departure of many Lebanese from their own country to various parts of the world. By taking this step the United States has given everyone the impression of its actual involvement in the Lebanese tragedy--a tragedy which only serves the interests of the enemies of the Arabs, especially the Zionist enemy.

The second step by the United States is reflected in its demonstration with its friend President as-Sadat for saying that it would be difficult for him to continue the negotiations with Israel if Israel did not offer anything new which would encourage him to do so. This U.S. displeasure following the mere expression of a statement is disturbing and leads one to wonder. This is at a time when the U.S. administration has maintained silence about serious developments in the region, and this exposes its absolute prejudice against the Arabs, including those loyal to it.

The third step is represented in a decision taken last night by the U.S. Congress suspending financial aid, which is not more than $100 million, to Syria. Evidently the reason was Syria's attitude in Lebanon. The suspension of the aid is meant as a punishment for this attitude. Furthermore, an American official has said that Syria is acting in Lebanon independently of the U.S. position.

It is significant that these three steps precede the arrival of the secretary of state in the region by a few days. Are they meant as an act of brandishing the American big stick once again?

The Arabs have gone to the farthest limit in moderation; so much so that they have become proverbial for this throughout the world, after a time when they used to be described as extremists. But no one has come a step forward to reward the Arabs for what they call their moderation. This is at a time when the Zionist enemy reaches the height of extremism without anyone in the world brandishing a stick in his face or addressing a criticism or warning to him.

Therefore the question, as the facts show, is not so much one of moderation or extremism as it is of the existence of an international collusion against the Arabs under the leadership of the United States. Its aim is to force them to accept colonialist settlement and its geopolitical expansionism and to hurl the Arabs into a new enslavement of bigger dimensions than the old enslavement.

Thus, what is basically threatened is the Arab fate and Arab rights. And so all regimes, especially those that may have a shred of Arabism remaining in them, must rise above small matters and see clearly the danger to the whole Arab nation. The aim of this danger is Arab land, wealth, will and future.

AT-TURAYKI INTERVIEW WARNS OF AMERICAN THREATS

LD061110Y Tripoli JANA in English 0938 GMT 6 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Kuwait, August 6, JANA--The foreign secretary, Dr. 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, stressed that all the Arabs who attended the Belgrade conference agree that the policy adopted by the Egyptian regime vis-a-vis the Zionist enemy is mistaken, and that the only way to end the Arab disputes is to revoke the Egyptian president's initiative and to break any liaison with the Zionist enemy.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS published today, Dr. at-Turayki said that the Jamahiriyah deems that there is no hope of solving the Arab problems through negotiations with the enemy neither at a Geneva conference nor at any other conference, and that the only solution is to struggle against the usurper enemy.

Dr. at-Turayki declared that the real danger confronting the Arab Gulf region lies in the American threats and that any attitude ignoring this fact would merely distract the states of this region from their cause of destiny and would create illusions which have no foundation. In his interview published in AL-QABAS, Dr. at-Turayki stressed that the Jamahiriyah stands for Arab nationalism and the independence of the Arab Gulf. He added "we should not be blind to the real danger threatening peace and security in the Arab Gulf."

MAURITANIA

MOROCCAN DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR DEFENSE TALKS

LD052216Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Aug 78 LD

[Text] The Moroccan delegation to the Moroccan-Mauritanian mutual defense committee session arrived in Nouakchott today. As is known, his majesty the king yesterday chaired a meeting during which he briefed the delegation members on the atmosphere of brotherhood and nationalism that should prevail in the ordinary session of the committee due to meet today under the chairmanship of Lt Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck, chairman of the Mauritanian Military Committee for National Recovery, and head of the Government of Mauritania.

AFP on Talks

PA070324Y Paris AFP in English 0250 GMT 7 Aug 78 PA

[Excerpt] Nouakchott, Aug 7 (AFP)--The presence of the Moroccan Army in Mauritania was discussed at a surprise meeting here this weekend of the Moroccan-Mauritanian military defence committee. Mauritanian leader Lt Col Mustapha Ould Mohamed Salek chaired the meeting, the committee's first since he overthrew President Moktar Ould Daddah on July 10. Informed sources said the committee discussed withdrawing some 600 Moroccan troops from the copper-mining town of Akjoujt, 250 km (155 miles) north of here, considering that as the former government had decided last May 31 to close the loss-making installation, it was no longer necessary to protect it. There was no official announcement after the military defence committee met throughout Saturday at the presidential residence.

VANCE ARRIVES IN ISRAEL; WELCOMED BY DAYAN

TA051925Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1845 GMT 5 Aug 78 TA

[Text] At this moment the plane of Secretary of State Cyrus Vance has landed at Ben-Gurion Airport. We are now going over to political correspondent Elimelekh Ram who is bringing us live coverage:

[Dayan--in English] ...coming here this time. We know he is here for a very short visit but an important one, one of the most important visits that we are looking forward to. We know that though all the parties concerned with the peace-making process realize that there is no other way and all the other alternatives are by far, the worse, and in order to get a settlement everyone, every party, has to make compromises and concessions, though everybody realizes that, still it is academic, and the fact is that now and again we are stuck. I want you to know, Mr Secretary, that we are looking forward for your visit because we believe that probably you are about the only one that can really push forward now the stuck negotiations. I can assure you on our behalf that we shall do whatever we can to do our share for the continuation of the peace negotiations. Thank you.

[Vance] Thank you very much Mr Minister. I am very pleased to be back in Israel again. As the minister said, this visit comes at an important time. We are at a crucial point in the peace process. I am looking forward to my meetings tomorrow morning with Prime Minister Begin, with Minister Dayan and others. Following those meetings I shall be going to Alexandria to meet with President as-Sadat to also discuss with him the status of the peace process and how we can move to get the peace process back on the track again. We share the view that it is of utmost importance that we get the process moving again because we all seek peace.

No Early Talks With Egypt

TA051935Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1830 GMT 5 Aug 78 TA

[Text] Political circles say there will probably be no continuation of the Leeds conference this week. The joint Israeli-Egyptian-U.S. conference at Umm Khushayb will not soon convene. A senior political source told political correspondent Elimelekh Ram that Vance came emptyhanded and will probably return emptyhanded.

This evening the U.S. secretary of state will meet with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. Two meetings will be held tomorrow with Prime Minister Begin, the foreign and defense ministers and the members of the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs.

In the meetings with Vance Israel will express readiness for negotiations about every subject but without conditions. Israel will also level criticisim at the triangular arms deal, mentioning its contention to the effect that this deal has only hardened Saudi Arabia's position.

Mr Vance is accompanied by 40 people, including his assistant for Near Eastern affairs, Harold Saunders and the assistant to the adviser for national security, William Quandt.

Begin, Vance Statements

NC061314Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 6 Aug 78 NC

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] Political correspondent Shalom Qital will now report on the intensive talks with Cyrus Vance up to this hour: [begin recording]

At the end of the meeting Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Prime Minister Menahem Begin are coming out toward us--the journalists. They have nothing much to say, save for the fact that they are scheduled to meet again in the afternoon, and that another meeting--not on the original agenda--has been set up for tomorrow morning.

Cyrus Vance made the following remarks:

[Vance--in English] The prime minister and I and members of the cabinet met this morning along with my colleagues. We had a good discussion covering a number of different subjects. We will be continuing our discussions again this afternoon and probably in the morning as well.

[Qital] We will now ask the prime minister to tell us about the prospects for continuing the negotiations and about his feelings after the first meeting with Cyrus Vance.

[Begin] This is a very important mission and a difficult one. The man who accepted to undertake this mission, namely, the U.S. secretary of state, is displaying moral courage. There is no doubt about this because, for the time being, there are only utterly negative statements coming out of Egypt. In fact, these statements wipe out the possibility of renewing the talks between us--the talks in which we are interested. But Vance might succeed in doing so. One should never despair. Therefore, we give him our blessing for coming to us. We wish him success in Alexandria. We will also hold talks in the afternoon. For the moment, that's all. The talks today were very serious. You should understand, however, that because of the delicate situation, I cannot report on the content of the talks. Likewise, I cannot report anything to you about the message which was conveyed to me by the secretary of state from President Carter. The letter is in the President's handwriting. I expressed my thanks to the President and to the secretary for bringing this letter.

[Qital] At this stage, how do you assess the prospects for continuing the direct talks with Egypt?

[Begin] Let us all be optimistic. The Egyptian statements are very negative. Since this morning, as you might have noticed, they have been attacking me personally in the most serious manner. I am not reacting because I do not want to make the situation worse. From your experiences in the Knesset you are fully aware that I am very capable of reacting; however, in this case, I prefer to ignore these attacks because peace is at stake, and peace is our hope, and our aspiration. One should not, therefore, plunge into despair because of any difficulty whatsoever and should not close any door. We will see what will transpire on Wednesday. The secretary has promised me that one of his advisers, who will accompany him to Alexandria, will return to us, because Vance himself will be going back to the United States. On Wednesday, therefore, we will certainly know what Egypt's tangible reply will be.

[Qital] The prime minister, Menahem Begin, in reply to a question, said that in the talks today no discussion was made about a meeting between the U.S. President, the Egyptian president and the Israeli prime minister. As is known, there are reports that the United States is planning such a meeting in Washington during the next phase.

In the talks between Vance and the Ministerial Committee for Security, two topics were extensively dealt with: one, the prospects and ways of carrying on the political negotiations; and two, the events in Lebanon.

In the afternoon, bilateral questions between the United States and Israel are also expected to be discussed extensively.

As for the prospects for continuing the negotiations, the Americans and the Israelis have emphasized the obstacles between Israel and Egypt. The prime minister and Ministers Yadin, Dayan, Weizman and Burg are the ministers who have expressed their opinions at this stage. They have emphasized the obstacles heaped by Egypt on the path of peace.

As for Lebanon, the chief of staff, Lt Gen Rafa'el Eytan, and the intelligence chief, Maj Gen Shelomo Gazit, also joined in the discussions and presented an extensive review of the situation in Lebanon and in its southern and central regions in particular. Cyrus Vance asked questions and expressed his opinions. All of this took place in the talks which ended about 1 hour ago. [end recording]

Private Meeting With Begin

NC060827Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 6 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin had a short and private meeting 1 hour ago at his office in Jerusalem with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. At the end of this meeting, the other members of the Ministerial Committee for Security joined the discussions.

In view of the talks with Vance, the cabinet's weekly session has been postponed until tomorrow.

DAYAN INTERVIEWED ON STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS

TA042014Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1820 GMT 4 Aug 78 TA

[Text of interview of Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan by correspondent Elimelekh Ram--videotaped]

[Announcer] U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance is arriving in Israel tomorrow evening on what can be termed a rescue trip, a rescue of the peace talks which seem to have failed. Is this really a failure or a transient crisis? Political correspondent Elimelekh Ram talks with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan about what is expected from the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Vance. [begin videotape]

[Question] Mr Dayan, do you think that the peace initiative, begun in November 1977, is coming to an end?

[Answer] I think that the peace negotiations are not terminating. I do not think though that the peace negotiations began with As-Sadat's arrival in Jerusalem. In fact the change came about after the Yom Kippur War when UN Security Council Resolution 338 on the Geneva conference was accepted by the Arabs. It was certainly upheld by Israel. Then came all the various agreements; the disengagement agreement and others. It is possible that As-Sadat's present position rejecting negotiations among the three parties will cause the Americans to seek another way. However, I do not think that the peace process has come to an end or will stop now.

[Question] Mr Dayan, before you departed for the Leeds conference and also when you returned from there, you said that in your opinion there are meeting points between the Israeli and Egyptian positions. However, with every statement by As-Sadat lately, the impression is given that the positions are growing farther apart. Are the gaps too wide to bridge?

[Answer] When I came back from Leeds--also before I left for Leeds, but especially when I came back and reported to the Knesset--I noted the meeting points but I also said there are disputed issues which outweigh the meeting points. These are the conditions about which As-Sadat wants Israel to commit itself in advance: the conditions on the matters of the sovereignty and territories. As-Sadat demands a withdrawal from all the territories except for minor modifications and objects to the existence of settlements and to the presence of any Israelis, especially soldiers, in the evacuated territories. I said there are bones of contention which outweigh the meeting points.

[Question] Is it possible to bridge them, in your opinion?

[Answer] This is what I wanted to say. On the matter of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, in my opinion, if As-Sadat insists on this, I think that the people and State of Israel should not cancel their right to the existence of Israel settlements in the territories up to the Jordan River, nor their right to the presence of Israeli military forces there. This must not be given up. If As-Sadat's condition is that these things should disappear by this or that timetable--this must not happen. Under no circumstances should Israel accept this condition and in this case we will not reach an agreement with him.

[Question] In order to maintain the momentum of the negotiations during the Leeds conference, As-Sadat asked 'Ezer Weizman for an Isareli gesture in the form of returning Al-'Arish to an Egyptian civilian administration. Israel refused and some claim that this refusal and the manner in which it was made caused As-Sadat to toughen his position. What is your opinion?

[Answer] First, the meetings with the defense minister did not take place during the Leeds conference but before it. Second, Israel did not refuse. Israel said that if President as-Sadat wants to have Al-'Arish and Santa Katerina back under Egyptian sovereignty--be it civilian or military--Israel is prepared to enter negotiations about this, negotiations that would be local, on these regions only. In other words, Israel is prepared to seek a way to do this, but in the framework of negotiations and not in the framework of what was called a gesture. It is not only that Israel did not refuse, but Israel did not reject this proposal either. In other words if, for some reason it is convenient for As-Sadat to begin with these negotiations, that he, As-Sadat proposes a local arrangement or agreement, be it for Al-'Arish and Santa Katerina, and not a comprehensive settlement, we will sit down and discuss this, but in the framework of an agreement, not by way of a unilateral gesture. We did not specify what we wanted in return.

[Question] On the bilateral Egyptian-Israeli issue: was there, in your opinion, a certain stage in the negotiations at which As-Sadat would have agreed to a separate agreement with Israel?

[Answer] No need for guesses here. He did not agree. There was no stage at which As-Sadat agreed to this. We were prepared for this. We prefer a comprehensive settlement. However, and this was the initial thought, we were ready to achieve a peace agreement or treaty regarding the Sinai with As-Sadat and--as we understood to be his desire and intention--to settle for a comprehensive declaration of principles regarding the Palestinian issue: Judaea, Samaria, Gaza, the refugees and all the rest. At a certain moment in Ismailia, As-Sadat himself said that he settled for a formula saying that there should be a just solution to the Palestinian problem, nothing more. Later, his advisers urged and beseeched him not to settle for this, etc. From that moment on As-Sadat has increasingly given weight to the Palestinian issue and no longer wants to talk of the Sinai, of the bilateral Egyptian-Israeli issue.

[Question] Is it only his advisers that had something to do with this or also inter-Arab elements? What happened here really? What happened in Ismailia, or to be precise, after Ismailia?

[Answer] I do not know. I am not one of As-Sadat's courtiers. However, at the first stage of what was called the Cairo conference As-Sadat set out chairs for additional representatives: he set out chairs for PLO and Soviet representatives too, but hoped at least--so I assume--that the representatives of Jordan and others, perhaps also Saudi Arabia, would participate. In the course of time it became clear to him that this did not come true. I assume that the Arab pressure to deal with the pan-Arab issue, namely, principles that would apply also to the Golan Heights and solutions to the Palestinian issue--here I stress that the Palestinian issue is not only the territorial question of the Gaza Strip and Judaea and Samaria but also the question of the return of the refugees and everything else involved in this--made it clear to As-Sadat that if he did not give priority to this, he would create for himself such a wide breach with the Arab world that he would not really be able to have a separate agreement with Israel.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, sir, the U.S. secretary of state is going to arrive in Israel tomorrow. Do you assess that as a result of a deadlock, if a deadlock prevails, the United States may present a plan of its own?

[Answer] I first want to repeat: I do not think that a deadlock will prevail in the basic process of peace negotiations. This is the need of the hour for the Arabs. The reasons leading the Arabs to accept resolution 338 in addition to opening the Suez Canal, the reasons which led As-Sadat to come to Jerusalem--all these have remained unchanged. It will always be so. The Arabs, like us, must look for ways to settle the problem....

[Question] Maybe this will always be so with the help of a U.S. plan.

[Answer] I do not know what is meant by a U.S. plan. I want to say to the Americans' credit that except for one thing which is greatly disliked, the constant placing of Israel in the dock of the guilty, for long months presenting Israel as intransigent and presenting all sorts of hypothetical questions to Israel--what will you say to this or that--the Americans have not in fact to date adopted either of the two following steps: they have not urged us to accept any U.S. plan which is opposed to our will. They have had a plan--since the very day of Carter's assumption of office, long before As-Sadat's peace initiative--a plan based on a withdrawal to the previous borders with minor modifications, on giving expression to the Palestinian state and so on, the well-known plan which is not compatible with our plan. They have not tried to impose it on us or to pressure us into saying amen and accepting it. Therefore, I have no complaint against the Americans for the way they conduct their mediation, except for what I have mentioned, for their incorrect presentation of us as intransigent and for placing us in the dock of the guilty. I assume that this will continue now upon the arrival of Secretary of State Vance; that he will not come with a U.S. plan which he will try to impose on us. He may make proposals to us and we can accept them or not. He has never concealed the differences of opinion between us. He occasionally urged us to change our positions and to accept this or that U.S. position. He may do this now too, but not by way of imposition.

[Question] Yet, if it transpires that the direct negotiations between us and Egypt do not work, is there a possibility of returning to Geneva and having the Soviets participate in the negotiations? Is it possible that there will be a demand that the PLO participate in the negotiations?

[Answer] This would be such a radical and far-reaching change that I cannot foresee it now. What may happen if the Egyptians absolutely refuse to meet with us is that the indirect negotiations via the United States would be resumed. However, the idea of bringing Syria and the Soviets--we certainly will not sit with the PLO--to the negotiating table requires such a change in the policy of the Americans and the Israelis and even in that of the Arabs today, that it seems to me very farfetched.

[Question] Sir, to end our interview: About 10 months have elapsed since As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. How can you describe today's situation? Has the situation reverted to what it was before, namely, prior to November 1977? Has a change occurred and if so, what is the nature of the change?

[Answer] In my opinion, today we are much closer to peace even if it is only in the precise definition of the disputed issues. I am divided on this with my friends from the opposition. They apparently believe that it is best for us to avoid learning and seeing the truth, to avoid pinpointing the bones of contention and the points on which there is agreement. I do not think so. We now know more about the disputed issues and we know this in a much clearer manner.

I will tell you of my experience. After the first contacts with Egypt, I had the impression--and I assumed it was well founded at the time--that the Egyptians would accept our peace proposal regarding the Sinai in the contacts held after As-Sadat's arrival. Now, I doubt whether the Egyptians are prepared for this since in the course of time it has become clear, perhaps also to them and not only to us, that things they thought they could do without meeting the objection of the Arab world are not so easy to do. It works the other way round too. There are many things that I could not originally believe the Arabs would be inclined to. I will cite only one example: I believe, and also to a certain extent know, that it is not just the Egyptians--they state this clearly in their proposal--but also the leaders of the Arabs of the territories, the Palestinian Arabs, who do not have a negative attitude toward the elements of the autonomy plan: toward the cancellation of the military authorities and the establishment of a Palestinian representation to run their affairs. I think that they secretly want to see the autonomy plan materialize. This plan--including the part speaking of 5 years in which nothing, including the sovereignty, will be finally determined--constitutes a beginning for a settlement.

[Question] I thank you very much, sir.

JERUSALEM SEES TWO EXPLANATIONS FOR AS-SADAT'S MOVES

TA041353Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 4 Aug 78 p 14 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Excerpts] It is hard to believe that all of a sudden, between one headline dealing with the elements the Israeli and Egyptian plans have in common concerning the future of the West Bank and another, quoting ugly names which Egypt's newspapers have been attaching to Menahem Begin, As-Sadat's initiative has passed away. [paragraph continues]

It is hard to digest that the amazing move which began with the roar of the engines of the Egyptian airliner that landed at Ben-Gurion Airport at 2006 on Saturday, 19 November 1977, is slowly disappearing in the course of one more angry speech by As-Sadat, full of claims and arguments against Israel. In the course of the 9 months that have elapsed, the ear and the eye have grown accustomed to so many words by As-Sadat, to so many surprising shifts in his positions, that the angry phrases he voiced in Ismailia this week, according to which he will not return to the negotiating table unless Israel declares in advance that it is prepared to withdraw from all the territories it conquered in 1967, have somehow disappeared and dissolved in the ocean of immense verbiage As-Sadat has produced in the last year.

It is, therefore, hard to refer to the peace contacts Israel and Egypt have held since November 1977 as a passing thing, never to return. The heart tends to judge As-Sadat's latest demand as a new bargaining position, as merely constituting a stage in the Egyptian effort to extort the best conditions and the most achievements from Israel in the meandering and harsh negotiations conducted by the two countries' leaders, who have deep-rooted ideological commitments which they must place against a changing reality which encompasses great opportunities and serious dangers.

Yet, there were to be found people in Jerusalem this week who have been following the negotiations since they began and who are well versed in their details, and who treated it as a passing event. They expressed two evaluations of As-Sadat's motives and the explanation of his conduct during the negotiations. It is interesting to report their words, because they probably reflect the atmosphere prevailing in the ruling circles and because they so characteristically overlook the Israeli mistakes in the last few months and by this, perhaps, reflect the basic misinterpretation of events.

According to one evaluation, As-Sadat's initiative was nothing but a carefully calculated scheme intended to increase As-Sadat's prestige in the world, to drive a wedge between Israel and the United States, to shift Washington toward Cairo and to bring about splits within the Israeli people. This is how this thesis explains the events: In the second half of last year, As-Sadat cut off his special relations with the Soviet Union. He had to find a new ally and naturally chose the United States--both for its power and for the active role it had played in releasing the Third Army during the Yom Kippur War and in establishing the interim agreements afterward.

Thus, according to the above thesis, all As-Sadat wanted to achieve throughout the negotiations was to avoid actually arriving at serious deliberations with Israel. Whenever the conditions for bringing the parties' positions closer arose, the Egyptian president took a step that abolished such a change. According to this version, Israel's cabinet managed to reveal As-Sadat's intentions. At Leeds Castle, Dayan pressed Kamil to the wall and forced As-Sadat to demonstrate a harsh position and arouse dissatisfaction on the part of the U.S. administration which had thus far praised him and confined its criticism to Begin.

There is a second scenario, and it, too, is being voiced by the same sources. According to the second evaluation, As-Sadat seriously meant to attain peace because of Egypt's difficult internal situation and his evaluation that he has no real chance to extort concessions from Israel by military force. The visit he made to Arab countries prior to his visit to Jerusalem was not intended, according to this version, to bring their leaders into his scheme, but rather to convince them of the justification of his move and the chances that it opened for him to get in a pleasant way from Israel the territories it had conquered during the 6-Day-War. [paragraph continues]

According to this version, all the difficulties in the negotiations stemmed from As-Sadat's erroneous approach according to which it was enough that he was prepared to make peace for it to give up security assets (territories) as well as political principles (its objection to granting self-determination to the Palestinians).

The negotiations failed because As-Sadat did not realize his desire to bring about an Israeli willingness to return the entire West Bank to Arab sovereignty. He was not satisfied with only getting Israeli concessions that found expression in the readiness to give him back the entire Sinai, to stop the settlements (in the last 6 months), in Begin's giving up imposing Israeli law on Judaea and Samaria and with other proposals submitted by Israel for the purpose of reaching an agreement with Egypt on a practical arrangement in these regions. According to this concept, the cabinet's major mistake was that it spoke in several voices, divided the frameworks of the negotiations into two committees and enabled As-Sadat to maneuver between Israeli personalities and cause a split in the nation.

As a footnote to these two scenarios, one feels the urge to point out that perhaps both assessments are founded on the tragic misinterpretation of As-Sadat's motives. It may well be that the global deceit which the first assessment attributed to As-Sadat is nothing but an expression of the initial Israeli fear of him (as the representative of the Arab enemy) which has not yet been uprooted. The second assessment is anchored to a larger degree in reality, but it overlooks serious errors committed by Israel's Government: the trust between Begin and As-Sadat, which is a prerequisite for reaching an agreement between them, was shattered the moment the Egyptian president learned about the "fleshing out campaign" in Qidmat Sinai and about the settlement plans for the West Bank. Begin's exaggerated meticulousness with respect to formulation (is the Palestinian question "an issue" or "a problem," is Israeli prepared to discuss "the nature of future relations" or "the permanent status" of the West Bank and so on) also did not make the contacts any easier.

Perhaps As-Sadat is nothing but a cunning and impulsive fellah [Egyptian peasant] who, due to the serious internal state of affairs in Egypt and because of his fear of the image of stiffness attributed to Begin's cabinet (one must remember that Begin's cabinet has several famous generals as members) decided to reach an arrangement with Israel. This impulsive decision has encountered the difficulties of reality: Begin's hanging on to Judaea and Samaria on the one hand, and the Egyptian adherence to the idea of self-determination for the Palestinian on the other. In addition to these there were more obstacles presented by the Arab rejectionist front which As-Sadat was eyeing and the hawkish camp in Israel (the Herut Movement, Gush Emunim, the Movement for Greater Israel) to whose positions Begin paid heed. Too much formality on the part of Begin and verbal wildness on the part of As-Sadat have placed a burden on the chance of reaching some kind of practical arrangement.

It is too early to sum up the negotiations and perhaps it is yet unnecessary. Vance arrives tomorrow and on Monday he leaves for Egypt. Perhaps salvation will come from the U.S. mediator. It is difficult to accept the idea that the past 9 months were a mere passing episode in the history of Israel and Egypt.

YADIN INTERVIEWED ON STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS

TA041835Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1505 GMT 4 Aug 78 TA

[Deputy Prime Minister and DMC leader, Prof Yiga'el Yadin, interviewed by Sara Frankel--time and place not given--recorded]

[Excerpt] [Question] On Sunday Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will arrive. What do you expect from this visit? Is it intended to get things moving in the negotiations? Can it do so?

[Answer] As for the first part of your question--I have no doubt that this is the aim and intention. After all, this is no secret and I do not have the problem of not revealing this: it is for the first time, after a very long while, that the position of the U.S. State Department together with all its components, has in fact sharply condemned As-Sadat for halting the process of negotiations. The U.S. position as expressed is that they want to bring about the face-to-face negotiations. Whether Vance can succeed in this surely depends on As-Sadat's position, and, I would say, also on the U.S. position. He will try to do this but the very fact of his arrival is important since, in my opinion, at this stage neither the Egyptians, nor the Americans and certainly not Israel, can afford not to hold negotiations. The results of not holding the negotiations will surely be fatal. I hope he will succeed at least in one thing, which is to find the formula and the method for the continuation of the negotiations. I think this is the objective with which Vance decided to come.

[Question] Does this stand a chance in your opinion?

[Answer] I hope so.

[Question] What is the special, clear-out event that brought about the cessation of the negotiations? I am not talking about the general political situation or argument over principles.

[Answer] It is very difficult to know. We are dealing with people both in Egypt and in Israel. It is difficult to know the human factor in any relations and negotiations between countries since it is subjective. We therefore hear that As-Sadat was insulted by what the prime minister had said or that the prime minister was sensitive to what he had said and so on and so forth. I do not believe that with basic problems such as the ones we have now it is at all possible that such personal problems will have any influence on the course of events. At any rate, it must not be so.

I think that As-Sadat's position now, according to my interpretation and I may be wrong, is that he also has reached a moment of truth, since we no longer talk now about a declaration of principles but about a solution. If he, as he says, did not and does not think that is is possible to reach a solution if he has to make territorial concessions as well, then the situation is difficult. He may want to avoid this situation. I am in favor of a territorial compromise. The DMC is in favor of a territorial compromise. However, if he says that because the foreign minister asked whether they are ready for a territorial compromise it is impossible to continue the talks, then where have we gotten to? Therefore, I believe the following: he has now made a decision perhaps to pressure the Americans into trying to take him and apparently also Israel out of this situation resulting from their positions and also into making proposals needed for the continuation of the negotiations.

In my opinion, all parties, including ourselves, must make supreme efforts to keep the negotiations going since there will be nothing to talk about the moment the negotiations are over. However, the problem of the negotiations now is that we have reached the real confrontation. What is the solution then? If neither we nor the other party are ready for some sort of a compromise, it is clear that there can be no negotiations. I think that the government's decision of 2 weeks ago--perhaps belatedly since I had said in the Knesset myself that we could have given this answer already a month and a half ago--nevertheless better late than never [incomplete sentence as heard]. We also said formally that the solution is such that in 5 years the very issue of sovereignty will be discussed. If somebody wants to interpret this to mean that the peace proposal is an intermediate proposal because of this, let him do so, let him interpret this as he wishes. This is the only way out of the situation now. If As-Sadat or the Egyptian foreign minister had answered Dayan: Yes, we are ready to discuss a territorial compromise, then the internal argument would have been real and sharp and if the government had refused to talk, we would have drawn the appropriate conclusions. However, this is not the problem at this moment. Vance will have to find the formula, the basis for the continuation of the negotiations. If As-Sadat says: Unless Isreal says in advance that it gives up every inch and gives up on the matter of sovereignty, then it is clear there are no negotiations, not only according to Begin but also according to the greatest number of parties, the decisive majority, I should say. Vance should find the formula. I hope that the formula will be found to follow the spirit of our proposal, with one kind of wording or another.

[Question] It is said Israel is, as it were, making the Egyptian president a proposal that will enable him to receive Al-'Arish and have an Egyptian administration there. Has such a proposal in fact been submitted to As-Sadat?

[Answer] I do not know of such a thing. I can only say that the letter sent by the prime minister states: If this is what you want, let us conduct negotiations about this; perhaps we will suggest that you yield on some other point. This is no longer a secret. I am not telling this because of my stand in the government, but on general principles. I was in favor of this gesture when it was first proposed, and I was isolated on this inside my party as well. DMC members that are not considered hawks were opposed to the gesture. This is a matter of outlook. Today, in answer to your question, I do not know whether something concrete has been proposed on this matter.

MK ARENS INTERVIEWED ON NEGOTIATION PROSPECTS

TA041717Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Aug 78 TA

[From the Weekly Newsreel; interview with MK Moshe Arens by Shalom Qital--live or recorded]

[Text] [Question] Professor Arens, are we witnessing the decline of the peace initiative in the Middle East?

[Answer] I think this description is inappropriate. In order to understand what is happening here I think we have to return to 19 November, almost 9 months ago, and ask ourselves the motives of President As-Sadat, what he tried to accomplish, whether he accomplished it and, accordingly, where he stands today. I think As-Sadat came here because of two basic premises. One, he has no military option, and two, U.S. pressure will not bend the Likud government. I think he wanted to bring about changes in these two premises. He tried to improve his military situation; in this he succeeded to some extent by the package deal.

He tried to bring about that outside pressure and, perhaps also internal pressure in Israel, and cause a surrender or a bending of the positions of the Government of Israel. He failed on the second point. I think he sees this today and he has to decide whether he wants to wait, namely, not to engage in negotiations actively, or whether he is ready to soften his positions.

[Question] Professor Arens, at least on one subject a change occurred this week. I think that we heard for the first time in a long time an official spokesman of the U.S. state Department voicing dissatisfaction of the Egyptian position. This week the State Department spokesman voiced disappointment with As-Sadat's position not to continue in the direct talks at this stage, does this fact imply some kind of turning point?

[Answer] I'd say that to some degree this indicates that As-Sadat has indeed exploited his moves and the tactics he has been adopting since 19 November when he came to Israel, but I wouldn't hang too many hopes on this U.S. turning point. The Americans will naturally--certainly as far as official and public statements are concerned--side with the Arab positions, and we also know the reasons for this.

[Question] What then will happen during the upcoming visit of Cyrus Vance?

[Answer] I think the Americans understand as well as we that a reasonable prospect for progress in the negotiations, a reasonable prospect to reach a settlement in the region is only through direct, face-to-face negotiations. In direct, face-to-face negotiations the Americans have, in fact, no meaningful role. Since we are talking with a single ruler and, hence, problems of prestige are often popping up, from time to time the Americans, as mediators can help As-Sadat to maintain his prestige. So if, for example, As-Sadat decides to moderate his positions, and if this would not be propitious for him if he states by himself, he may perhaps avail himself of U.S. assistance.

[Question] We talk a lot of As-Sadat's position, of the U.S. position. What should we, Israel, do? Wait until As-Sadat changes his mind?

[Answer] I'd say that if we review the last 9 months, and we may perhaps term this period as the first round in the negotiations, then I think we have been quite successful. We may have even won in this first round. When As-Sadat's objective was to bring out a bending in the positions of the Israeli Government--with U.S. administration help--he, in fact, failed in this. We have to make all our moves according to our basic targets. Our fundamental goal is to reach a settlement without jeopardizing our basic security positions, because every settlement that would endanger the basic security positions of the State of Israel is a settlement that would not prevail.

[Question] That is to say we have to continue on the path we have been taking to date, not change the peace plan, not change our thinking, our striving toward a peace treaty, is that your view?

[Answer] We are striving toward a peace treaty. The peace plan as we proposed it already includes a certain degree of risk. In my view we must not go beyond this. Should we go beyond this, we shall not only fail to reach peace, but we shall jeopardize any settlement that we might reach. In order that we might reach a settlement--what actually is the basic problem here--in order to reach a settlement with Arab states--at this stage we are talking with As-Sadat--our security problems have to be understood, and they have to meet us halfway to enable us to solve the problems of security. As long as they are unwilling to do this, it is difficult to assume that we shall reach a settlement.

INDIA

USSR SUPREME SOVIET DEPUTY CHAIRMAN ARRIVES IN NEW DELHI

BK070930Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Aug 78 BK

[Text] The deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union, Mr Barkauskas, arrived in New Delhi this morning to take part in the celebrations of the seventh anniversary of the treaty of friendship with India. He will also be a guest at the independence day celebrations. Dr Barkauskas visited Rajghat today and placed floral wreaths at the samadhi [tomb] of Mahatma Gandhi. In the evening he will call on the vice president, Mr Jatti. He will also call on the prime minister tomorrow.

BANGLADESH SAID RESPONSIBLE FOR HALTING ILLEGAL MIGRATION

BK041103Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 4 Aug 78 BK

[Text] The Parliament was today told that the government has no reason to believe that there has been any marked increase in the influx of refugees from Bangladesh. The external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee, said that basically it is the responsibility of of the Bangladesh Government to prevent migration of its nationals into India and to protect minorities there. He said during the recent visit of President Ziaur Rahman to India the government sought to impress upon them that it is their duty to create conditions to prevent the flow of illegal migrants into India.

DEATH TOLL RISES TO FOUR IN NAGPUR RIOTING

BK051608Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Aug 78 BK

[Excerpts] In Nagpur, four persons have been killed in three police firings on violent mobs protesting against the incidents in the Marathwada region on renaming the university after Dr Ambedkar. A violent mob gheraoed [encircled] and heavily stoned the police while another tried to set a petrol pump on fire. A police constable also died owing to accidental explosion of a teargas shell. The situation in the city continues to be tense. The police authorities say only four persons were injured, but hospital sources put the number at 20.

The Marathwada region was said to be calm today except for a few incidents. Nanded is still under curfew. Aurangabad was peaceful and there has been no report of any incident. A bundh [strike] was observed at (Kasmat) in Parbhani District.

PAKISTAN

KARACHI RADIO REPORTS ATTACK ON ISLAMABAD PLO OFFICE

BK051336Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 5 Aug 78 BK

[Text] A pressnote issued in Rawalpindi says four persons including a police constable and three Palestinians were killed in the Palestine Liberation Organization [PLO] headquarters premises in Islamabad this morning. The pressnote says two unidentified persons came out of a parked car in the PLO court premises. They killed a police constable on duty (?at the gates of the office) with bursts of machineguns. Their next victim was the Palestinian [words indistinct]. After this, they entered the building and killed two Palestinians one after the other. The pressnote further says the culprits have escaped [words indistinct].

GOVERNMENT DENIES INFILTRATION INTO INDIAN HELD KASHMIR

BK0510100Y Karachi Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 5 Aug 78 BK

[Text] Official sources in Islamabad have emphatically contradicted an All-India Radio report alledging infiltration into the occupied Kashmir by 150 Chinese-trained armed Pakistanis through Azad Kashmir.

The sources have described the allegation as absolutely fabricated and a crude attempt to malign China which has very friendly relations with Pakistan.

SPOKESMAN SAYS HALTING OF U.S. AID 'UNJUSTIFIED'

BK0516000Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Aug 78 BK

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad said today that the U.S. action of stopping development aid is unjustified as Pakistan has not violated any U.S. regulations. The spokesman was commenting on reports of a halt in U.S. development aid for Pakistan. He said this is nothing new. In fact, new development aid has been suspended by the U.S. Government since April 1977.

The spokesman said that although this action had apparently been taken in line with the new U.S. legislation relating to nuclear reprocessing plants, it was unjustified as U.S. officials themselves had acknowledged that Pakistan had not violated any U.S. law in this connection.

The Foreign Office spokesman said it was quite obvious that the U.S. action was caused by Pakistan's firm stand that the contract with France must be honored as it stands.

The spokesman said that following discussions last month with the French special envoy Mr Andre Jacomet, the chief martial law administrator, Gen Zial Haq, had addressed a letter to French President Giscard d'Estaing reiterating Pakistan's position. A reply to the letter has not yet been received.

ASHGAR KHAN LEAVES FOR 2-WEEK VISIT TO PRC

BK0616140Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Aug 78 BK

[Text] The chairman of the Tehriqe Istiqlal, retired Air Marshal Mohammad Asghar Khan, left Rawalpindi today for Peking on a 2-week visit to China.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE DECIDES TO JOIN HAQ'S GOVERNMENT

OW0619120Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1900 GMT 6 Aug 78 OW

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 6 (AFP)--Pakistan National Alliance of seven right wing parties today announced its decision to join the government of Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, and its secretary, General Ghafoor Ahmed, said top priority would be given to holding general elections by the new setup to be finalized soon.

The PNA official said the present cabinet formed by General Zia last July 5 would be reconstituted at talks between the alliance leaders and the general on August 16 next. Simultaneously, he said the government would announce a time limit to hold the national elections, but this did not mean fixing an exact polling date.

The PNA decision, coming after prolonged talks with the chief martial law administrator, General Zia, ended the controversy with the Muslim League Party which joined the government on July 5 last in defiance of the dictates of the alliance high command. There was no immediate word from the government about the agreement with the Pakistan National Alliance.

PNA sources said the agreement envisaged a lesser role for the bureaucrats at present holding cabinet posts. They are Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Agha Shahi.

The National Democratic Party of Abdul Wali Khan, formerly president of the defunct National Awami Party, had approved the results of the negotiations with General Zia, the PNA secretary general said. Ghafoor Ahmed said this party will support the future cabinet, which will be "powerful and purposeful" but it would not share power itself.

The party has been criticizing moves by some PNA leaders to join the government on the grounds that forming a government without elections would be tantamount to seeking power through the backdoor.

There was no immediate reaction from the NDP leaders to the announcement of the PNA secretary general who spoke to newsmen after day-long deliberations of PNA leaders which were not attended by the NDP.

The Pakistan National Alliance was formed in the beginning of last year to oppose former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in the abortive March 1977 general elections. After the elections, it launched a countrywide agitation because of alleged rigging of polls leading to ouster of Mr. Bhutto by the military of July 5 last year.

Ghafoor Ahmed said the PNA will nominate its men for cabinet posts and they will be nominees of the alliance and not of any individual component party.

He said the future government would have three main objectives--holding of elections at the earliest, introduction of Nizam-E-Must-Ana [Islamic system taught by prophet Mohammed] and steps to solve people's problems.

MEDICAL BOARD SAYS BHUTTO'S HEALTH SATISFACTORY

BK061606Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Aug 78 BK

[Text] According to APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN], the 4-member medical board which conducted a medical checkup of Mr. Z.A. Bhutto in the Rawalpindi District Jail says there is nothing unusual in his health. In its medical review the board reports that the general condition of the main appellant is satisfactory.

SRI LANKA

JAYEWARDENE EXPLAINS IMPORTANCE OF NEW CONSTITUTION

BK061332Y Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Aug 78 BK

[Text] The new constitution provides the people with freedom hitherto never enjoyed by them. The people's vote and other fundamental rights cannot be changed without a referendum. This is essential to effect changes in this connection even if the ruling party had a two-thirds of five-sixths majority in the national state assembly. These observations were made by the president, Mr. J.R. Jayewardene, at a public rally held in Colombo yesterday to mark the completion of the first year of government.

He pointed out that the procedure for a refrendum and for promulgating the emergency [words indistinct] that the dictator will never arise through the parliamentary system.

The president explained that he promised to create a free and just society since the former government disregarded the people's rights under the emergency and already a background has been prepared. Although it was a difficult task to create [words indistinct] society, it will be achieved through example and the Buddhist path of nonviolence and discipline.

HAMEED WANTS TO SUPPLY SRI LANKA MANPOWER TO CSSR

BK061330Y Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Aug 78 BK

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr. A.C.S. Hameed, has urged Czechoslovakia to sign a manpower (? postal and investment) guarantee agreement with Sri Lanka.

Mr. Hameed, who had talks with Czech leaders, said that these agreements were essential for close economic and technical cooperation between the two countries. Czechoslovakia is faced with a problem of a shortage of manpower. There are already about 100,000 workers from Yugoslavia, Poland, Cuba and other countries working in the country.

Mr. Hameed said that Sri Lanka would be happy to supply some of the manpower requirements of Czechoslovakia.

BRIEFS

BANGLADESH POLITICAL PARTIES--Some hidden political organizations in Bangladesh are now forming political parties openly under different names. These parties are: Former Eastern Region Communist Party, Bangladesh Biplabi [Revolutionary] Communist Party, Bangladesh Communist Party (Leninism) and East Bengal Proletariat Party. [Dacca ITTEFAQ in Bengali 16 Jul 78 p 1 BK]

JAPANESE COMMODITY LOAN TO INDIA--Japan has given on 4 August a commodity loan of over 245 million rupees to India for this financial year. It is repayable in 30 years, which includes a grace period of 10 years. The money will help India to buy capital goods and raw material not only from Japan but also from other countries. Notes in this connection were exchanged between the new Japanese ambassador and the secretary of economic affairs in New Delhi. [Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 4 Aug 78 BK]

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